

TODAY

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Aruba

TODAY

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Detention extended in Aruba

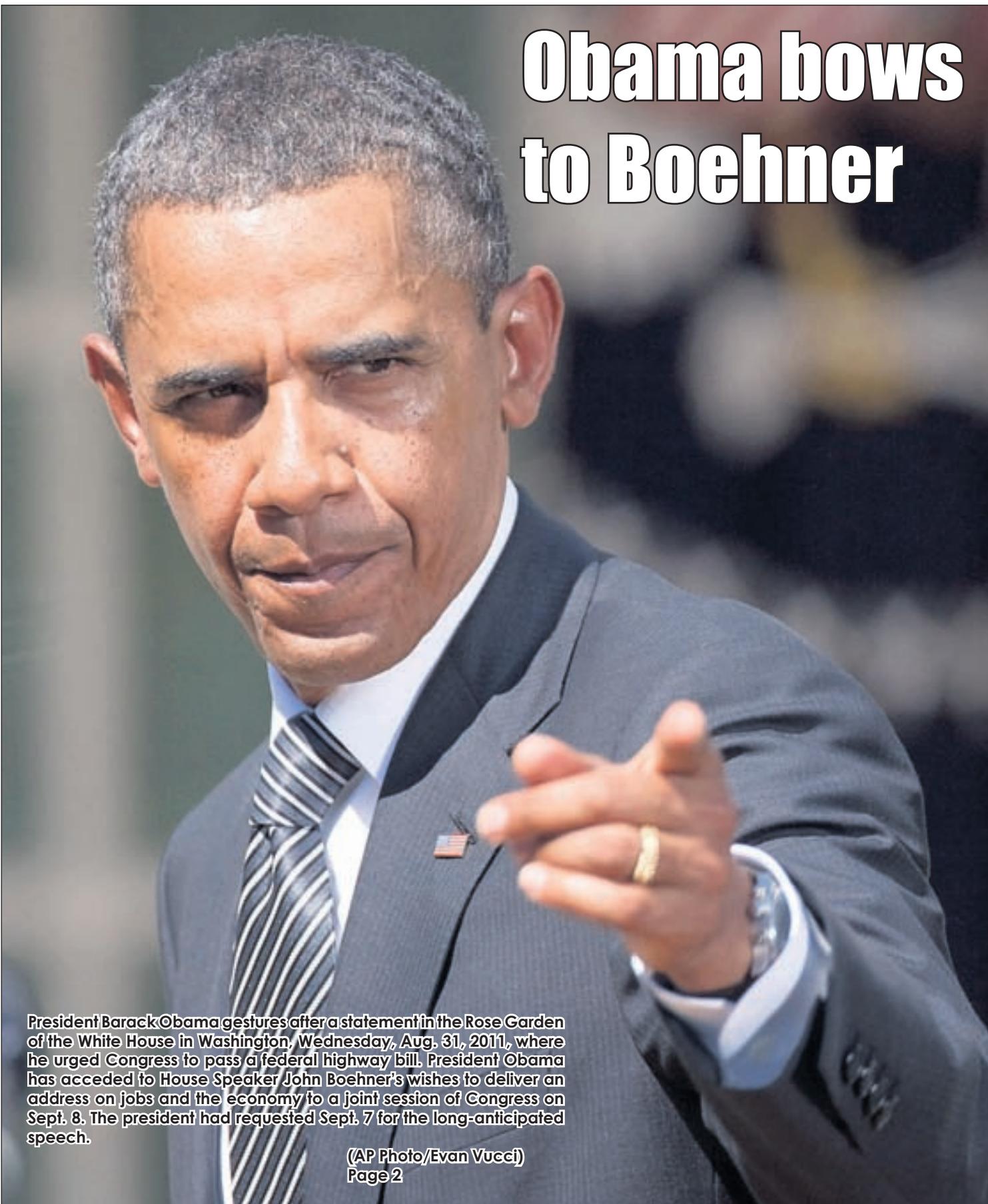
DILMA AREND'S GEERMAN

Associated Press

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP)

— A U.S. businessman who has been detained in the presumed death of his travel companion will have to spend at least 60 more days in custody as prosecutors try to build a case against him, an Aruba judge ruled Wednesday. The examining magistrate agreed to extend the detention of Gary V. Giordano at the request of prosecutors after a hearing inside the prison on the Dutch Caribbean island. The hearing was closed and the decision was not released. But it was announced by the Aruban prosecutor's office, which said Giordano is suspected of involvement in the possible drowning of his companion Robyn Gardner. Giordano has been in custody for nearly a month since he told police that Gardner disappeared while they were snorkeling off the southern tip of the island. Police have repeatedly searched the area where she was supposedly last seen but have found no trace of her. At the end of the 60 days, prosecutors can ask the judge to extend the detention further or they can bring him to trial. Solicitor General Taco Stein said they are considering a range of possible charges, including murder, manslaughter, accidental death and insurance fraud. □

Obama bows to Boehner



President Barack Obama gestures after a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, where he urged Congress to pass a federal highway bill. President Obama has acceded to House Speaker John Boehner's wishes to deliver an address on jobs and the economy to a joint session of Congress on Sept. 8. The president had requested Sept. 7 for the long-anticipated speech.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)
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Swollen rivers begin falling across Northeast US

MICHAEL HILL
SAMANTHA HENRY
Associated Press
KILLINGTON, Vermont (AP)

— Swollen rivers began falling Wednesday in much of the Northeast, allowing relief crews to reach the last of the tiny Vermont towns that had been entirely cut off from help by Hurricane Irene's fast-moving floodwaters. The receding water eased the flooding that had paralyzed parts of the region and revealed more damage to homes, farms and businesses across the flood-scarred landscape. Repair estimates indicated that the storm would almost certainly rank among the nation's costliest natural disasters, despite packing a lighter punch than initially feared.

Of the 11 towns that had been severed from the outside world, the final one to be reached by rescuers was tiny Wardsboro, a village of 850 in the Green Mountains. The community is little more than a post office and some houses standing along Route 100, a highway popular with

tourists in the autumn. The U.S. National Guard continued to ferry supplies to mountain towns that had no electricity, no telephone service and limited transportation in or out. Helicopters arrived with food,

sey and Connecticut.

Two of the three nuclear reactors in a southern New Jersey county have powered partway down because debris from Hurricane Irene is blocking cooling water intakes.



National Guardsmen deliver ready-to-eat meals and water to residents of Fair Haven, Vt. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011. Vermont Emergency Management officials say all but one of the state's communities left isolated by flooding have been reached by ground crews. It's hoped the last community, Wardsboro, can be reached Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Robert Ray)

blankets, tarps and drinking water. Floodwaters also ravaged parts of New Jer-

sey and Connecticut. "Sunday morning the water was only up to here," said Wallington, New Jersey, res-

ident Kevin O'Reilly, gesturing to where his front lawn used to meet the sidewalk. "Sunday afternoon, the waves were bouncing off the house, and that's when it blew out the basement windows."

Irene's death toll stands at 53, including 46 people killed in 13 U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

The U.S. toll is comparable to 1999's Hurricane Floyd, which killed 56 Americans when it struck North Carolina and charged up the East Coast into New England. An estimate released immediately after Irene by the Kinetic Analysis Corp., a consulting firm that uses computer models to project storm losses, put the damage at \$7.2 billion in eight states and Washington, D.C. That would eclipse damage from Hurricane Bob, which caused \$1 billion in damage in New England in 1991 or the equivalent of about \$1.7 billion today, and Hurricane Gloria, which swept through the region in 1985 and left \$900 million, or the equivalent of \$1.9 billion today, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Denise Ruzicka, director of inland water resources for Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, said flood control dams and basins that New England states installed after 1955 floods helped prevent a catastrophe in the lower Connecticut River basin. She said all the rivers in the state will be receding by the end of the day. Early Wednesday, President Barack Obama declared a major disaster in New York, freeing up federal recovery funds for people in eight counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs. Irene destroyed 500 to 600 homes and thousands of acres of farmland in upstate New York. Obama planned to travel to the northern New Jersey town of Paterson on Sunday to survey damage. □

Obama bows

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has acceded to House Speaker John Boehner's wishes to deliver an address on jobs and the economy to a joint session of Congress on Sept. 8. The president had requested Sept. 7 for the long-anticipated speech. In agreeing to Boehner's schedule, Obama's address will compete with the opening game of the National Football League season — a conflict the White House wanted to avoid. But the change now will allow a planned Sept. 7 Republican presidential debate to proceed without Obama upstaging it. Obama had asked Congress to convene an extraordinary joint session next Wednesday to hear his much-anticipated proposals to put jobless Americans back to work but Boehner balked and told the president he ought to wait and speak a day later. The sudden political jousting over the speech's timing is just the latest bitter fight in a long summer that saw a protracted partisan battle over raising the nation's debt ceiling. Obama is expected to lay out proposals to increase hiring with a blend of tax incentives for business and government spending for public works projects. With July unemployment at 9.1 percent and the economy in a dangerously sluggish recovery, Obama's plan has consequences for millions of Americans and for his own political prospects. The president has made clear he will ask for extensions of a payroll tax cut for workers and jobless benefits for the unemployed. Those two elements would cost about \$175 billion. Usually, presidential requests to address Congress are routinely granted after discussions between the White House and lawmakers. But Boehner, in his formal reply, said that the House would not return until the day Obama wanted to speak and that logistical and parliamentary issues might be an obstacle. □

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Wikileaks prompts new round of diplomatic uproar

SCOTT SHANE

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WASHINGTON — In the Philippines this week, officials are fuming about criticism by a former U.S. ambassador of the late Corazon C. Aquino, a national icon. Australians have learned that just two years ago U.S. authorities were considering declaring that Australia's air safety system no longer met international standards. People in Botswana could read a critical American account of that country's anemic efforts against human trafficking.

In other words, WikiLeaks is at it again.

News organizations in dozens of countries are panning for nuggets in the latest and largest dump of diplomatic cables by WikiLeaks, which last week suddenly accelerated its posting of confidential State Department documents. Over a few days, the group made public nearly 134,000 cables — more than six times the total number published by WikiLeaks and many news organizations over the past nine months. Because the newly disclosed cables reveal the names of more than 100 people in foreign countries whom diplomats had marked for special protection, the cables raised new fears over the safety of diplomats' sources. Previous cable releases had often removed the names of vulnerable people. On top of the new WikiLeaks posting, media reports have suggested that a file containing all of the 251,287 diplomatic cables obtained by WikiLeaks last year might soon be made public. WikiLeaks' Twitter feed Wednesday first said a major announcement was coming and then revealed the Internet address of a large encrypted file, setting off speculation that it might be the cable database. But interviews this week with diplomats, defense officials and human rights advocates suggested that so far their worst fears about reprisals resulting from the cables' publication had not been realized.

"We are not aware of anyone who has been arrested or injured because they were named in the cables," said Dinah PoKempner, the general counsel of Human Rights Watch. "We remain concerned about the potential for reprisal," especially as a result of the new batch of cables, she added. At the same time, PoKempner said, "there have been tremendous positive consequences in terms of people's access to information about their own countries." She noted that the WikiLeaks revelations about official corruption in Tunisia helped fuel the first democratic revolution of the Arab Spring. WikiLeaks has been a magnet for controversy since it began large-scale disclosures of U.S. documents last year, and the new release stirred the same strong emotions. A cyber-attack took down the main WikiLeaks website for a time Tuesday, and speculation about possible perpetrators ranged from a number of governments to former WikiLeaks associates now estranged from the group's founder, Julian Assange. □

Reputed Jamaican drug kingpin pleads guilty in NYC

LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A reputed Jamaican drug kingpin described by U.S. authorities as among the world's most dangerous drug dealers pleaded guilty to racketeering and assault charges Wednesday, admitting his leadership in an international criminal organization that delivered drugs across the world for more than a decade. Christopher Coke entered the plea in U.S. District Court in Manhattan to charges that carry a potential penalty of 23 years in prison, substantially less than the possible life sentence he could have faced on the original charges. Sentencing was set for Dec. 8. He said he was the leader and organizer of the Presi-



Christopher Coke entered the plea in U.S. District Court in Manhattan to charges that carry a potential penalty of 23 years in prison, substantially less than the possible life sentence he could have faced on the original charges. Sentencing was set for Dec. 8.

dential Click drug organization, which authorities said distributed drugs since 1994 worldwide, including

to New York City, Miami and Kingston, Jamaica. They said the Presidential Click controlled the Tivoli Gardens area, a neighborhood in inner-city Kingston, where gunmen armed with U.S.-made weapons acted at Coke's direction. "I directed certain activities, not limited to distribution of cocaine and crack cocaine" in Jamaica and the U.S. and the purchase and importation of firearms, he said. "For nearly two decades, Christopher Coke led a ruthless criminal enterprise that used fear, force and intimidation to support its drug and arms trafficking 'businesses,'" U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a statement. "He moved drugs and guns between Jamaica and the United States with impunity. □



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US counterterror chief:

al-Qaida on 'steady slide'

KIMBERLY DOZIER

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan said al-Qaida is "on a steady slide" after the death of al-Qaida's latest second-in-command in Pakistan.

Brennan told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it was a "huge blow" in the first official White House comment since Atiyah Abd al-Rahman's reported killing by CIA drone strike in Pakistan's tribal areas last week.

"Al-Qaida is sort of on the ropes and taking a lot of shots to the body and the head," Brennan said.

"This is a time not to step back and let them recover," a message he says he is sending to his counterparts in Pakistan.

Islamabad's objections to drone strikes have become more strident since the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden in May. Despite that friction, Brennan said the relationship with Pakistan is improving.

In a wide-ranging interview, Brennan credited aggressive U.S. action against militants from Pakistan to Yemen as the main reason U.S. intelligence has detected no active terror plots before the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

He described the counterterror relationship with Pakistan, Yemen and Iraq as models of how the U.S. will fight al-Qaida in the future, in which the lion's share of the hunting and fighting is done by the host nation. □



One World Trade Center rises above the lower Manhattan skyline in this aerial photo. New York. Sept. 11, 2011 will mark the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the United States.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)



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Court case lifts lid on secret post 9/11 flights

STEPHEN BRAUN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A hidden network of U.S. companies, coordinated by a prominent defense contractor, played a key role in the covert airlift that transported terrorism suspects and their American minders, according to newly disclosed documents in a New York business dispute between two aviation companies. The court files of more than 1,700 pages shed new light on the U.S. government's reliance on private contractors for flights between Washington, foreign capitals, the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and, at times, landing points near once-secret, CIA-run overseas prisons. The companies included DynCorp, a leading government contractor that secretly oversaw a fleet of luxury jets, and caterers that unwittingly stocked the planes with fruit platters and bottles of wine for the transoceanic routes, according to the court files and testimony.

The business dispute stems from an obscure four-year fight between a New York-based charter company, Richmor Aviation Inc., which supplied corporate jets and crews to the government, and a private aviation broker, SportsFlight Air, which organized flights for DynCorp. Both sides cited the government's program of forced transport of detainees, or "extraordinary rendition," in testimony, evidence and legal arguments. The companies are fighting over \$874,000 awarded to Richmor by a New York state appeals court to cover unpaid costs for the secret flights.

The court files — they include contracts, flight invoices, cell phone logs and correspondence — paint a sweeping portrait of collusion between the government and the private contractors that did its bidding — some eagerly, some hesitantly. Others turned a blind eye.

Among the new disclosures:

—DynCorp, which was reorganized and split up between another major contractor and a separate firm now known as DynCorp International, functioned as the primary contractor over the airlift. The company had not been previously linked to the secret flights.

—Airport invoices and other commercial records provide a new paper trail for the movements of some high-value terrorism suspects who vanished into the CIA "black site" prisons, along with government operatives who rushed to the scenes of their capture. The records include flight itineraries closely coordinated with the arrest of accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed and the suspected transport of other captives.

—The private jets were furnished with State Department transit letters providing diplomatic cover for their flights. Former top State Department officials said similar arrangements aided other government-leased flights, but the documents in the court files may not be authentic since there are indications that the official who purportedly signed them was fictitious. □

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Decision looming, Palin to visit early vote states

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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WASHINGTON — Several things might explain why Sarah Palin is scheduled to travel to Iowa and New Hampshire over the Labor Day weekend.

Palin, the former governor of Alaska and 2008 vice presidential nominee, could be using the trips as a prelude to an already planned presidential campaign, serving up the latest in a series of not-so-subtle hints about the importance of these early voting states. It could be another attempt to test the appetite — if any — among conservative activists for her particular brand of celebrity-infused politics.

During her trip, Palin is scheduled to attend Tea Party rallies in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Or it could be nothing more than the latest piece of evidence that Palin — the former host of her own TV reality show who gets mobbed everywhere she goes — simply craves the attention that accompanies her strategically planned appearances.

Her small collection of advisers are remaining coy about her motivations. Aides will say only that she enjoys participating in Tea Party events on behalf of the activists who view politics much as she does.

But the weekend travel comes at the beginning of a month that Palin herself has said will be decisive. In interviews, she has said she will decide by the end of September whether she will run for president. To wait any longer would be unfair to her supporters, she has said.

The uncertainty about her presidential plans has made her travel schedule the subject of great scrutiny and discussion.

On Wednesday, that discussion became even more unusual amid a series of reports that her appearance at the Iowa Tea Party rally had been called off, then was just put on hold, and finally was — maybe — back on track.

Twitter messages flew back and forth throughout the day, as did anonymous quotes from Palin's advisers accusing the Tea Party

organizers in Iowa of not dealing honestly with them about the logistics of the event.

give the buyers backstage access to Palin, the adviser said.

As of Wednesday evening,

Tea Party," the adviser said.

"In the end, this is about the participants. We didn't want to disappoint them."

Disappointing the Tea Party would not, of course, be a good tactic for her possible presidential bid. But being responsive to an important constituency does not necessarily mean Palin has decided to run. The Tea Party movement is a big part of Palin's fan base — its followers buy her books, watch her analyses on Fox News, consume her Twitter and Facebook posts and tune into her TV specials about the wilderness of Alaska. Even if she does not run, Palin Inc. may be wary about her audience.

If Palin decides not to run, it is possible that she could choose to exert her political influence by endorsing one of the current candidates, potentially Rick Perry, who is closer to her than any of the other Republican hopefuls.

Whichever route she takes politically, Tea Party officials were saying Wednesday that they were delighted to have Palin appearing this weekend. □



Several things might explain why Sarah Palin is scheduled to travel to Iowa and New Hampshire over the Labor Day weekend. Palin, the former governor of Alaska and 2008 vice presidential nominee, could be using the trips as a prelude to an already planned presidential campaign, serving up the latest in a series of not-so-subtle hints about the importance of these early voting states.

One top Palin adviser who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "We would get a different story literally every 20 minutes" from the Tea Party organizers. At one point, the organizers suggested that they would sell special tickets that would

the appearance in Iowa appeared to be back on, though Palin's advisers cautioned that she could still take a pass on the event if the organizers continued to change the terms of her appearance.

"She likes doing stuff for the

Houston teens convicted in racing deaths

BRIAN ROGERS

© 2010 Houston Chronicle

Teenagers Christopher Yovino and Brett Taylor wiped their eyes as they listened to Omar Nuño testify Tuesday about his life since his wife and two of his children were killed in a high-speed collision last year.

"Going to my house is so painful," Nuño said between sobs. "I think I've got to sell the house. I've got to move on with my life."

State District Judge Denise Bradley's courtroom was filled with sobs and sniffles as Nuño testified against Yovino, 18, and Taylor, 19. The teens face sentences ranging from probation to 20 years in prison after being convicted Tuesday of three counts of manslaughter.

Prosecutors said the two were racing each other at speeds of more than 90

mph when one of their vehicles struck Nuño's wife's minivan at an intersection in northwest Houston.

Jurors took about six hours over two days to find both guilty of causing the Sept. 27 wreck that killed Mayra Castillo Torres, 37, Christopher Nuño, 14, and 6-year-old Katia Nuño.

After the verdict, Taylor's aunt, Kimberly Robinson, said jurors came to the wrong conclusion.

"Justice was not served," Robinson said. "We do not feel this was a fair verdict. We know these boys and we know this was an accident."

She said Yovino and Taylor plan to appeal the verdict. "We're praying for all three families faithfully and continuously, and we encourage everyone out there to do the same," Robinson said. □

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Veterans coming home to backcountry for jobs

FELICITY BARRINGER

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SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK,

Calif. — On the hillside above Evelyn Lake, deep in the southern Sierra Nevada, it was surprisingly easy to tell time: precisely at noon, a loud whoop echoed amid the black-flecked granite and dust, signaling the beginning of lunch hour for the 17-person crew repairing the trail to the lake.

"How much rock do you think we moved today?" Gregory Snyder asked his work partner, James Morin, over the metallic clang of rakes, shovels, mallets and pickaxes. "About five tons," Morin guessed. Not bad for a morning's work building wilderness pathways with tools little different from the ones the ancient Egyptians used to build the pyramids. Not bad at all. Fourteen miles from the nearest road and thousands of miles from the areas of conflict and tension where the two men served in the Army, Snyder (a former air traffic controller in Iraq) and Morin (a tank corpsman on the Korean Peninsula) and five other former military men are breaking a trail, figuratively and literally. They are part of a pilot program run by the California Conservation Corps, which gives veterans a chance to learn skills and perhaps eventually pursue careers preserving public lands. The two Army veterans, along with two Navy veterans, three Marines, seven civilians and three supervisors, are part of a backcountry crew shoring up and clearing debris from paths that transport hikers from a world of Facebook into a more natural

life, where encounters with sharp-smelling bear clover or the shrub's namesake are possible. The effort to attract veterans, many either unemployed or adrift in

a chance to cut trees and rebuild switchbacks amid huge forests and tiny flowers. The veterans benefit from having work (albeit at \$8 an hour) and from be-



A crew of military veterans, along with civilians, sit around a camp fire after a day of building wilderness pathways for hikers near Evelyn Lake at Sequoia National Park in California. The veterans are part of a pilot program run by the California Conservation Corps, which gives them a chance to learn skills and perhaps eventually pursue careers preserving public lands.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

a turbulent economy, into the backcountry is new to California this year. The program took root in Colorado in 2009 and has spread from the Rockies to the rest of the West. It is a collaboration among many government agencies and nonprofits, particularly a three-year-old group called Veterans Green Jobs. Bill Doe, the chief executive, said the number of veterans participating is small but growing: perhaps 300 since its inception. The number on trail crews this summer is about 100, estimated Harry Bruell, the executive director of the Southwest Conservation Corps. Like the California Conservation Corps, whose logo adorns Snyder's and Morin's hardhats, the Southwestern Corps offers

ing in a familiar situation: part of a small group in a far-off location with a little-understood job to do. "This reminds me of Fallujah, being in a remote area with a tight family," said Aaron Hernandez, a former Marine who served as a diesel mechanic in the Iraqi city during a bloody assault in 2004. "There were 10 mechanics, and we all lived together, we all ate together, we all worked together. That was what kept us going." Bruell said he had heard much the same from other veterans in similar programs. "You have all these people who had all these experiences, trained expensively at government cost, put their bodies on the line and have all kinds of skills," he said. □

Petraeus issues warning on budget cuts upon retiring

ELISABETH BUMILLER

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON

— An era in the American military came to an end Wednesday when David H. Petraeus, the most influential general of his generation, retired with a 17-gun salute and a warning that coming budget cuts should not lead to the "hollow Army" that occurred after the Vietnam War.

Just 11 days before the 10th anniversary of Osama bin Laden's attacks on New York and Washington, Petraeus also implicitly cautioned the U.S. not to abandon the costly, troop-intensive counterinsurgency doctrine that was his hallmark when he commanded the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The general spoke as the Obama White House shifts from a broad counterinsurgency strategy of trying to build roads, schools and good government in Afghanistan to a narrower, more secretive mission of hunting down terrorists.

Petraeus said the U.S. should keep counterinsurgency as a doctrine — he helped write the military's updated manual on it in 2005 and 2006 — if only because war is unpredictable and the military needs to be trained for all possibilities.

"We have relearned since 9/11 the timeless lesson that we don't always get to fight the wars for which we're most prepared or most inclined," Petraeus said at the retirement ceremony, held in bright sunshine at the parade ground at Fort Myer, near Arlington

National Cemetery.

"Given that reality, we will need to maintain the full-spectrum capability that we have developed over this last decade of conflict in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere."

Petraeus, 58, will arrive on Tuesday in a civilian business suit as the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency. His last day in uniform, after 37 years in the Army, was not only a turning point in his own life but also in the military, signaling the end, or so President Barack Obama hopes, of the wars that defined the first decade of the 21st century.

Petraeus has told friends that going to the CIA will still keep him "in the fight" — perhaps as much as if he had stayed in the military, given the Obama administration's move toward covert operations.

The job he really wanted, Petraeus has told friends, was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but Obama chose a less celebrated and far less public military man, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the current Army Chief of Staff. It was Petraeus himself who then raised the idea of going to the CIA, an agency he knew as an avid consumer of American intelligence in Baghdad and Kabul, Afghanistan.

Obama named Petraeus as his CIA chief in April, and though the general did not have to retire from the Army to take the job, he chose to do so to draw a line between the military and intelligence worlds. □



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No plans to tie Libya aid to Lockerbie

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration said Wednesday it will continue to press Libyan rebels to review the case of the convicted Lockerbie bomber but ruled out making the transfer of frozen Gadhafi regime assets contingent on his return to prison. As Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton prepared to attend an international conference in Paris on Thursday aimed at boosting aid to the rebels, the State Department said getting the money to the opposition is a higher initial priority than handling the case of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi. Al-Megrahi, a former Libyan intelligence agent, is the only person convicted in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The ailing al-Megrahi was released from a prison two years ago and returned to a hero's welcome in Libya where he is now reported near death. Thursday's conference will gather top officials from about 60 countries to hear from the rebels what they need to get Libya stabilized and governed. The Transitional National Council is expected to present a detailed list of requests, topped by access to the billions of dollars in assets of Moammar Gadhafi's government that are frozen around the world. They also may seek short-term loans from the IMF and World Bank, according to U.S. officials. And, while they do not want international peacekeepers, the rebels may seek some kind of civilian U.N. police presence, the officials said. □

Month passes with no U.S. soldier killed in Iraq

MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT
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BAGHDAD — Under increased U.S. pressure, an Iraqi crackdown on Iranian-backed Shiite militias has helped produce a previously elusive goal: For the first time since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, an entire month has passed without a single U.S. service member dying.

The milestone is particularly remarkable because it comes after 14 troops were killed in July, making it the most deadly month for the Americans in three years; and it has occurred amid a frightening campaign of suicide bombings and assassinations from Sunni insurgents that killed hundreds of Iraqis, resurrecting the specter of the worst days of sectarian fighting. "If you had thought about a month without a death back during the surge in 2007 it would have been pretty hard to imagine because we were losing soldiers every day, dozens a week," said Col. Douglas Crissman, who is in charge of U.S. forces in four provinces of southern Iraq and oversaw a battalion in Anbar province during the troop increase, or surge. "I think this shows how far the Iraqi security forces have come." None of the roughly 48,000 troops in Iraq were killed in August, a remarkable if fragile achievement, officials said. In all, 4,465 U.S. soldiers have died here since the U.S. invasion in 2003, according to Defense Department figures.

U.S. military commanders attribute the drop in deaths to the Iraqi government's finally pushing back against Iran and the Shiite militias, as well as aggressive unilateral strikes by U.S.



U.S. Army soldiers and Iraqi soldiers conduct a patrol in search of men suspected of planting explosives, in Sadiyah, near Baquba, Iraq, Aug. 29, 2011. An Iraqi crackdown on Iranian-backed Shiite militias has helped produced a previously elusive goal: for the first time since the American invasion of Iraq, an entire month has passed without a single U.S. service member dying.

(Joseph Sywenkyj/The New York Times)

forces. If the Americans are correct, and August is not just a statistical blip, it may also be connected to the ongoing negotiations between U.S. and Iraqi officials over whether to leave some troops behind after the end of the year, experts said. Although all sides in Iraq have said they want the Americans to leave, each has some interest in seeing that some troops stay behind.

The Iraqi government continues to rely on U.S. forces and expertise to preserve security. Shiite militias would lose some of their rationale for existence, and al-Qaida and Sunni insurgents could lose a useful foil. For the United States, domestic political concerns would also make it easier to sell an extension to a war-weary public if there were fewer causalities.

"The militia groups involved

are being paid by the Iranians to make trouble for the Americans, and that means that their main objective is no longer there if the Americans withdraw all their troops," said Joost Hiltermann, the International Crisis Group's deputy program director for the Middle East. "It doesn't mean they won't exist altogether, but their violence will be harder to justify."

U.S. military and diplomatic officials said Iraq has not only pressed the militias but also sent word directly to Tehran to back off on attacks. The Iranians had used the militias, which are primarily based in the southern part of the country and Baghdad, to wage a proxy battle with the Americans for dominance and influence in Iraq. Those militias were responsible for 12 of the 14 deaths in June, many the result of rocket or mortar attacks on military bases. U.S. officials increased pressure on Iraqis to clamp down after the spate of attacks in June, and Iraq eventually responded. □



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A Gadhafi son vows no surrender

BEN HUBBARD

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Two men claiming to be Moammar Gadhafi's sons made conflicting appeals from hiding Wednesday night, with one of them calling for talks with rebel leaders and the other urging the regime's loyalists to fight to the death.

The dueling messages reflected the growing turmoil in Gadhafi's inner circle on the eve of the 42nd anniversary of his rise to power. This year, the dictator is a fugitive from opposition fighters who have seized most of the country in a six-month civil war. Now, they say they're hot on his trail. The rebels are pooling tips about Moammar Gadhafi's whereabouts from captured regime fighters and others, and believe he is most likely no longer in Tripoli, said Abdel Hakim Belhaj, the rebels' military chief in the capital. Rebel forces have been advancing toward three regime strongholds: the town of Sirte, Gadhafi's hometown, as well as the towns of Bani Walid and Sabha, the latter hundreds of



Libyan muslims pray in Green Square, renamed Martyr's Square, for the morning Eid prayer, marking the end of Ramadan and to celebrate their victory over embattled Moammar Gadhafi, in Tripoli, Libya, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori)

miles south of the capital of Tripoli. There has been speculation that Gadhafi is hiding in one of them. In telephone calls to Arab TV stations within minutes of each other Wednesday night, two men claiming to be Gadhafi's sons sent messages to the Libyan people. A man identifying himself as Seif al-Islam Gadhafi urged his father's supporters to fight the rebels "day and night." He told the Syrian-

based Al-Rai TV station that residents of Bani Walid agreed that "we are going to die on our land." He said NATO carried out several airstrikes in Bani Walid that killed people. "All move right now," said Seif al-Islam, once considered the moderate face of the Gadhafi regime and the leader's heir apparent. "Attack the rats," he said, referring to the rebels. He said he was calling from a suburb of Tripoli and that

his father "is fine."

The caller dismissed comments by Belhaj that another Gadhafi son, al-Saadi, was negotiating the terms of his surrender. Seif al-Islam said his brother was under pressure, in part out of concern for his family. In a separate phone call to the Al-Arabiya TV station, a man identifying himself as al-Saadi said he was ready to negotiate with the rebels to stop the bloodshed. Rebel leaders have repeatedly said they won't negotiate until Gadhafi is gone. Al-Saadi said he spoke for his father and regime military commanders in calling for talks. He said that the rebels could lead Libya.

"We don't mind. We are all Libyans," he said. "We have no problem to give them power."

The voice of Seif al-Islam — who was reportedly captured by the rebels earlier this month only to turn up free and defiant in Tripoli — was easily recognizable, but al-Saadi's was more difficult to confirm. □

Mexico Gov: corruption probe for deadly fire

ELLIOT SPAGAT

KATHERINE CORCORAN

Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — A casino fire that killed 52 people in the northern city of Monterrey has put new pressure on the government to regulate a rapidly growing gambling industry that many Mexicans believe is vulnerable to corruption, money laundering and extortion.

The state of Nuevo Leon, where Monterrey is located, launched a new offensive Wednesday against casinos as a videotape was released of the brother of the city's mayor taking wads of cash inside an unidentified gambling establishment days before last week's deadly arson attack.

Mexico's gaming boom has occurred under the administration of President Felipe Calderon, which has led a bloody crackdown on organized crime. The Calderon government says it has not approved a single casino permit since he took office in late 2006 and blames judges for issuing injunctions to allow gambling halls to operate outside of local authority.

Since March, a federal judge and a court secretary have come under investigation for rulings related to casino operations.

London-based researcher Gambling Compliance Ltd. says Mexico may have eclipsed Brazil, Panama and Argentina as Latin America's largest gambling market. Mexico's largest gambling interest, the publicly traded Spanish company Codere SA, says the boom has outpaced government regulation.

"The pace of growth has been very fast, outstripping the authorities' ability to enforce the existing regulations, including prosecuting those who are operating without the necessary permits," David Elizaga, Codere's chief financial officer, said during a conference call with investors last week. □

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Earliest signs of advanced tools found

JOHN WILFORD

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One hallmark of *Homo erectus*, a forerunner of modern humans, was his stone tools, an advanced technology reflecting a good deal of forethought and dexterity. Up to now, however, scientists have been unable to pin a firm date on the earliest known evidence of his stone tool-making.

A new geological study, being reported Thursday in the journal *Nature*, showed that tools from a site near Lake Turkana in Kenya were made about 1.76 million years ago, the earliest of their ilk found so far. Previous dates were estimates ranging from 1.4 million to 1.6 million years ago.

Although no *erectus* fossils were found with the Turkana tools, a skull of that species was excavated last year in the same sediment level across the lake. This suggests that *Homo erectus* was responsible for these particular tools, which were made with what scientists refer to as Acheulean technology. The term connotes the type of oval and pear-shaped hand axes and other implements that were a specialty of early humans.

U.S. researchers at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, part of Columbia University, established the age of the Turkana tools by dating the surround-

ing mudstone with a paleomagnetic technique. When layers of silt and clay hardened into stone, this preserved the orientation of Earth's magnetic field at the time, and an analysis of the periodic polarity reversals and other records yielded the age of the site known as Kokiselei.

"I was taken aback when I realized that the geological data indicated it was

site by Richard Leakey, the Kenyan fossil hunter who had discovered, just six miles away, the Turkana Boy, a young *Homo erectus* who lived about 1.5 million years ago and is the most complete early hominid skeleton found so far.

In the journal article, Lepre's group said that artifacts from an earlier and simpler technology, Oldowan, were found alongside the

technology was imported from a place yet to be identified, or originated from Oldowan toolmakers in the area.

In either case, the scientists wrote, "the Acheulean did not accompany the first human dispersal from Africa, despite being available at the time."

Hominids thought to be *Homo erectus* – or possibly *Homo habilis*, an earlier group – were then living in what is now the country of Georgia. Their tools were Oldowan. So the archaeologists and geologists concluded that there may have been multiple groups of hominids "distinguished by separate stone-tool-making behaviors and dispersal strategies" co-existing in Africa 1.76 million years ago.

Ian Tattersall, a paleoanthropologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York who was not involved in the research, said rumors of much earlier Acheulean finds had been circulating for a long time, "and now we have it, and the evidence is well documented."

The new find "is bound to open up the debate about the relationship between the appearance of the Acheulean and that of early African *Homo erectus*, the earliest hominid known to have basically modern human body proportions," Tattersall said. □



An undated handout image of a large crude ax. A study dates human tools like this ax to 1.76 million years ago.

(P. J. Texier/MPK/WTAP via The New York Times)

the oldest Acheulean site in the world," said the lead author of the report, Christopher J. Lepre, a researcher at Lamont-Doherty who also teaches geology at Rutgers University.

The assemblage of hand axes, picks and other cutting tools was collected, mostly in the 1990s, by French archaeologists led by Helene Roche of the National Center for Scientific Research in France. Roche, a co-author of the paper, was steered to the

more advanced Acheulean tools. The Oldowan tools were mainly sharp stone flakes and roughly worked rock cores, while the more sophisticated tools displayed signs of symmetry, uniformity and planning. The presence of both Oldowan and Acheulean artifacts at the site indicates that "the two technologies are not mutually exclusive" components of an evolving cultural lineage, the scientists said. It was possible that the Acheulean tech-

Colombia reinstates conviction

in Galan hit

LIBARDO CARDONA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— The Supreme Court on Wednesday reinstated the murder conviction of a former justice minister for masterminding the 1989 assassination of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan, a courageous foe of drug cartels.

The court also reinstated the 24-year prison sentence a lower court imposed in 2007 on Alberto Santofimio, who was widely considered the "political godfather" of the late cocaine kingpin Pablo Escobar.

Hitmen employed by Escobar killed Galan, and a key witness in Santofimio's trial said he saw the defendant urge Escobar to order the murder.

"Kill him, Pablo," testified John Jairo Velasquez, or "Popeye," who was Escobar's chief henchman at the time and has confessed to organizing the assassination.

Santofimio, a senator who had been justice minister in the 1970s, was at the time a rival of Galan for the Liberal Party's presidential nomination.

The Aug. 18, 1989, assassination badly traumatized a nation already reeling from a terror campaign by Escobar's henchmen, who killed hundreds of judges, journalists and police. □

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Activists aim to revitalize Israeli protests

ISABEL KERSHNER

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TEL AVIV, Israel — For many Israelis, the size of Saturday night's protests against the high cost of living and for social justice will serve as a barometer of whether the popular movement that began in this Mediterranean city and swept the country this summer is thriving or fading.

After six weeks of tent encampments and rallies featuring popular singers that drew as many as 300,000 people into the streets on the first Saturday in August, the Sept. 3 rally has been described by its promoters as a million-person march. But for now the movement is in a kind of hiatus, with nagging questions about where it will go. The mid-August attack by Palestinian militants that killed eight Israelis near the southern city of Eilat, close to the Egyptian border, followed by Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza, proved to be a

major interruption, abruptly changing the discourse back to the more familiar mode of Israeli security in hostile surroundings.

In addition, disagreements have emerged among the groups that make up the leadership of the protest movement, along with increasing grumbling about some of the higher-profile leaders themselves. The festival atmosphere that first enveloped the social protest has dissipated. The rows of tents at the flagship encampment lining Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv are gradually emptying.

After Saturday's rally, some or most of the tent encampments around the country may decide to fold. But the activists who are most dedicated to the movement are playing down the divisions, determined to carry on. "Sitting in tents is a means, not a goal," said Yoav Fekete, 27, a newly elected representative of the Rothschild encampment. "People have to get

back to work and school." The members of a committed group of about 100 people are "not going

to establish a compound in the Rothschild encampment called Villa Favela — a cluster of temporary shel-

ters near Eilat, the wave of protest, which began over the lack of affordable housing, grew to encompass every aspect of an Israeli society battered by rising costs, with a struggling middle class and a growing gap between the rich and the poor. The protest managed to unite a normally fractious public, momentarily creating common cause among the left and the right, religious and secular Israelis, Ashkenazim of European origin and Sephardic Jews from Middle Eastern backgrounds, and the country's Arabs and Jews. The debate had turned to the need to reduce the country's formidable defense budget, with economists and security experts explaining how it could be done. "At last," Stav Shaffir, one of the protest leaders, said in an interview shortly before the attack. Israelis had been made to feel that they should not complain about material things, she said, because "the perception is

always that something can happen tomorrow and we will all be dead."

Since then the social justice movement has been bumped off the front pages of the Israeli newspapers. Rockets slamming into the southern cities sent people running from tents to bomb shelters. □



An Israeli armored vehicle returns to base after a patrol along the border with the Gaza Strip in southern Israel. For many Israelis, the size of the recent protests against the high cost of living and for social justice will serve as a barometer of whether the popular movement that began in this Mediterranean city and swept the country this summer is thriving or fading.

anywhere," he said, and there are plans to form "communities" around the country where people will hold popular meetings and "take responsibility for the space they live in."

Ella Doron, 29, a singer, es-

ters that included carpeted private quarters with a double bed.

"Of course people have left," she said. "You cannot be on full power for a month and a half. The tents are a symbol, a form of protest right now."

The test facing the social protest movement goes to the core of an Israeli problem: whether the national agenda can ever be shaped by issues other than the country's security threats and related dictates of the Israeli-Arab conflict. In the headier days before the attack

In Germany, sex workers feed meter

NICHOLAS KULISH

© 2011 New York Times

BERLIN — The city of Bonn has begun collecting taxes from prostitutes with an automated pay station similar to a parking meter, proving again that German efficiency knows few if any bounds.

Bonn is not the only city in Germany to charge such a tax, but it is the first to hit upon the idea of a ticket machine that prints out receipts for the nightly flat fee of 6 euros (currently about \$8.65) for the privilege of streetwalking. The meter went into service over the weekend, and by Monday morning had collected \$382 for the city's coffers. Prostitution is legal in Germany; the Reeperbahn in Hamburg is one of the largest red-light districts in Europe. Attempts are often made to regulate the industry, unionize the workers

and tax the proceeds, but they are not always effective, given both the discretion and the unpredictability that are inherent in the business. Street prostitution as practiced in Bonn, once the capital of West Germany and a town better known for sleepiness than sexiness, would be unfamiliar to many people outside Germany for its unusual degree of organization and institutionalization.

The women wait for customers on a stretch of the Immenburgstrasse in a largely industrial part of the city. In addition to the Siemens-built meter machine, which cost \$11,575 including installation, the city has built special wooden garages nearby where customers can park their cars and have sex there. "They are called, in fairest and finest administrative High German, 'performance areas,'

but I believe the Italian prime minister would say 'bunga bunga,'" said Monika Frombgen, a spokeswoman for the city. Still, she said, the serious issue that the meter was intended to address boils down to tax fairness. "The women in the bordellos and the sauna clubs also pay the tax, and so should those working on the streets," Frombgen said. The city estimates that it has 200 sex workers, of whom about 20 ply their trade on the street. The Bonn government spends \$116,000 a year for a private security company to guard the area and to provide security for the sex workers. Under the new meter system, street prostitutes must purchase the tickets to work between the hours of 8:15 p.m. and 6 a.m. Leaflets explaining the system, translated into several languages, are handed out to the prostitutes. □

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Generation limbo: waiting it out

JENNIFER LEE

© 2011 New York Times

When Stephanie Kelly, a 2009 graduate of the University of Florida, looked for a job in her chosen field, advertising, she found few prospects and even fewer takers. So now she has two jobs: as a part-time "senior secretary" at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville and a freelance gig writing for Elster.com, a "secret Santa" website.

But is Kelly stressed out about the lack of a career path she spent four years preparing for? Not at all. Instead, she has come to appreciate her life.

"I can cook and write at my own pace," she said. "I kind of like that about my life."

Likewise, Amy Klein, who graduated from Harvard in 2007 with a degree in English literature, couldn't find a job in publishing. At one point, she had applied for

an editorial-assistant job at Gourmet magazine. Less than two weeks later, Conde Nast shut down that 68-year-old magazine.

join a punk rock band, Titus Andronicus, as a guitarist. Once, that might have been considered professional suicide. But weighed



Sarah Weinstein, a Boston University graduate, in front of Nomad bar where she is manager, in Austin, Texas. The Limbo Generation, college graduates who entered the job market after the economic downturn, take dead-end jobs while waiting to start their real careers.

(Ben Sklar/The New York Times)

"So much for that job application," said Klein, now 26.

One night she bumped into a friend, who asked her to

against a dreary day job, music suddenly held considerable appeal. So last spring, she sublet her room in Brooklyn, N.Y., and toured

the country in an old Chevy minivan.

"I'm fulfilling my artistic goals," Klein said.

Meet the members of what might be called Generation Limbo: highly educated 20-somethings whose careers are stuck in neutral, coping with dead-end jobs and listless prospects.

And so they wait: for the economy to turn, for good jobs to materialize, for their lucky break. Some do so bitterly, frustrated that their well-mapped careers have gone astray. Others do so anxiously, wondering how they are going to pay their rent, their school loans, their living expenses — sometimes resorting to once-unthinkable government handouts.

"We did everything we were supposed to," said Stephanie Morales, 23, who graduated from Dartmouth College in 2009 with hopes of working in the arts.

Instead she ended up waiting tables at a Chart House restaurant in Weehawken, N.J., earning \$2.17 an hour plus tips, to pay off her student loans.

"What was the point of working so hard for 22 years if there was nothing out there?" said Morales, who is now a paralegal and plans on attending law school. Some of Morales' classmates have found themselves on welfare.

"You don't expect someone who just spent four years in Ivy League schools to be on food stamps," said Morales, who estimates that a half-dozen of her friends are on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. A few are even helping younger graduates figure out how to apply.

"We are passing on these traditions on how to work in the adult world as working poor," Morales said.

But then there are people like Kelly and Klein, who are more laissez-faire. With the job market still bleak, their motto might as well be: "No career? No prospects? No worries!" (Well, at least for the time being.)

After all, much of the situation is out of their control, as victims of bad timing. □

Film links golf, God

STEVE PERSALL

© 2011 St. Petersburg Times Seven Days in Utopia (G) (100 min.) In addition to being one of the finest golf movies ever, this film raises the bar on faith-based cinema, a shoestring genre typically marked by lower production values than this. Seven Days in Utopia is a lovely film giving "squeaky clean" a better name, with a Christian message going down easily for secular audiences, too.

Luke Chisholm (Lucas Black) suffers an embarrassing meltdown on the 18th hole of his first pro tournament.

Flashbacks show it's the result of a father (Joseph Lyle Taylor) pushing a prodigy too hard, and daddy is now Luke's caddy. Seeking to escape the pressure, Luke drives off to nowhere and winds up in Utopia, a Texas town guided by the gentle hand of Johnny Crawford (Robert Duvall, superb as always).

Johnny is something of a golf whisperer, offering to clean up Luke's game if he spends a week in Utopia. Training sessions are unusual, to say the least.

Johnny has Luke literally paint a difficult shot to hone concentration, go fly fishing in a canoe to learn balance, and pitch metal washers into a cup to sharpen his putting. I'm not sure these methods work, but Duvall's performance could convince me of just about anything.

Between lessons, Luke begins a chaste flirtation with Sarah (Deborah Ann Woll, HBO's True Blood), irritating a local suitor (Brian Geraghty).

But even this cliche gets turned around, with the men bonding over that washer-pitching game and a hilarious round of "cowboy poker" at a rodeo.

Everything in Utopia is steeped in Christian values but not overtly until the final act, when Johnny lays his God cards on the table. By then, the film is so compelling that I'd follow the old man to church. □



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third Starbucks on the aruban market; this location promises to keep delivering high quality products as well as good service.

Starbucks Paseo Herencia was decorated with the Aruba beach in mind; dark and light wood furniture were combined with white stone murals representing the islands' white beaches which definitely gives the location the perfect tropical touch. The murals were decorated with the cof-

fee belt, which illustrates the three primary coffee-growing regions, each representing their landscape and climate. Local artist Stan Kuiperi used the Starbucks wall as his canvas to

paint a very distinctive art piece.

According to Zugheila Lindeborg, public relations officer, "The Starbucks coffee company has been committed since 1971 in delivering the highest quality coffee thru out the world; today Starbucks has over 17,000 stores in 55 countries and we are honored to have 3 of them in Aruba. With the opening of our new Starbucks, we continue our contribution to Aruba's economy and we confirm a positive investment climate on the island. □

Starbucks Aruba recently received a worldwide recognition for the best design in 2010; this confirms that Aruba is also one of the favorite Starbucks destinations".

Our objective is to offer each customer that visits any Starbucks location on Aruba a unique Starbucks experience.

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Westin families enjoy a day of fun in the sun



PALM BEACH -- The annual Family Day of the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba took place this past Saturday on the beach adjacent to the resort. As always, this day brings associates and their families together for some rest and relaxation away from their duties at the resort. There was plenty of great food and drinks to go around, with fun and games for kids young and old...and even a few pets showed up to partake in the beach festivities! Family day is just one of the activities and programs initiated to enrich associate's total Westin experience, both on and off the job. □



Beach Tennis Aruba successful in the USA and Bermuda!



ORANJESTAD - At the end it were the Italians once again who won most of the titles, but Team Aruba improved a lot comparing to earlier international results. During the Nations Cup Aruba reached semi finals losing to Brazil this was played at a special designed beach tennis club in the area of New York City. Jochem Ros/Bertrand Coulet reached 1/4 finals losing to the #2 ranked team in the world Calbucci/Strano. Other players from Aruba where Marcia Guest and Corey Guest, Marcia playing in the Pro women draw, while Corey competed in the Amateurs. The men's final was one of the best matches so far in Beach Tennis history, with amazing rally's, incredible returns, huge serve's the around 2000 spectators were treated with some spectacular beach tennis! The # 1 ranked team in the world Mingozi/Marighel-



la pulled a victory out in a decisive 3rd set, clinching their 4th US Open title! In Bermuda it was again Italy dominating the sand, although the Brazilians and Arubians are closing in. Jochem Ros/Daniel Fink(Aua/Br) lost in 1/4 to Tazzari/Garavini 5-7,4-6. While Font/Prata lost in a third set to Mingozi/Marighella, and they will be training hard to force an upset in Aruba later this year! All these teams will be present at the Aruba

Amstel Bright International Beach Tennis event from 17-20 November at Moomba beach bar. This is one of the last tournament on the ITF calendar of 2011, so last chance for teams from all over the world to earn points. There will be \$ 10000.- in prize money making this the highest rated G1 ITF Beach Tennis tournament on the tour! Results ITF Beach Tennis Tour: [US Open](#), [Long Beach New York](#): Pro Men: 1 Alex Min-

gozi/Matteo Marighella (It) Pro women: 1 Simona Bonadonna/Eva D'Elia (It) Pro mix: 1 Vinicius Font/ Francisca Savaggia(Br/It) Nations Cup: 1 Italy 2 Brazil 3 Aruba Bermuda: Pro men: 1 Alex Mingozi/ Matteo Marighella (It) Pro women: 1 Simona Briganti/ Laura Ollivieri (It) Pro mix: 1 Marco Garavini/Simona Briganti/It) Beach Tennis Aruba is powered by: Amstel Bright, Alno Kitchen, AMC Unicon, Aruba Aloe, AWA, Casa Tua, Deloitte, Island Temptation, Moomba beach bar, Powerade and RBTT.□

Marriott guests are honored by Aruba

PALM BEACH - Recently a group of loyal visitors from Aruba were honored as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassador of Goodwill of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between ten or more and 20 or more consecutive years. All of the honorees are members of the Marriott Surf Club and has been coming to Aruba for 10 or more consecutive years and one of the honorees for 25 consecutive years. The honorees are Mr. Bill and Ann Warren, Mr. Michael and Rose Pala-



zzo and Mr. Francesco and Pasqua Stanisci, they all received the Distinguished Visitor certificates and Mrs. Rosalind Barnes received her Ambassador of Goodwill certificate. The certifi-

cates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Luzdary Leest Exec. Adm. Assistant from the Marriott Surf Club.□



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InselAir extends 5 years Celebration Sale

ORANJESTAD - InselAir, the Curacao-based airline that operates in the Pan-American region announced today that it will be extending its successful 5 Years Celebration Sale with 2 extra days. Starting August 29th, InselAir celebrated its fifth year from its first flight with a huge BlowOut Sale. The sale started Monday August 29th 00:00EST and was supposed to last until Wednesday August 31st 24:00EST. Today the airline announced it will be extending its sale for two more days.

To celebrate its fifth birthday InselAir announced a huge 3 day blowout sale that would end today Wednesday August 31th. To give even more customers the opportunity to buy sale tickets, InselAir will extend its sale with two more days until Friday, September 2nd.

As announced earlier this week, InselAir will donate one Guilder from each sale ticket to the InselAir Community Fund. At the end of the sale InselAir will double the amount. CEO Albert Kluyver added, "The sale is a great success and we are very happy to be able to contribute to the InselAir Community Fund."

The airline which is also giving away tickets on its Facebook page to customers who bought a sale ticket, is very content with its 5 Year Celebration Sale. "Especially on Facebook there is a lot of conversation about the sale and some speculation as to which cause the InselAir Community Fund will donate a large contribution to," according to Jurgen Lippinkhof Chief Commercial Officer.

The companies Chief General and International Affairs Edward Heerenveen added, "It is great to see the support we get and have gotten throughout the years. This extended sale is our way of saying thank you." The extended sale tickets are available via www.fly-inselair.com, ticket offices and travel agents.

About InselAir

InselAir operated its first



flight August 28th, 2006 to Aruba and Bonaire. After its first flight destinations Aruba, Bonaire and Las Piedras were added. In 2007, St.Maarten, Paramaribo, Port-au-Prince, St. Domingo and Valencia were added

to the network. Destination Trinidad was flown between August 2007 and February 2008. In 2008 Miami as first USA destination was added, followed by San Juan in 2009. In 2010 Jamaica was added, followed by Medell-

in, Colombia, Charlotte, USA and Caracas, Venezuela in 2011.

Today InselAir has 15 destinations, 46 flights per day and all fares are always stated as return. The airline focuses on customer expe-

rience, safety and on-time performance. InselAir also plans to expand its in-flight experience by adding a comfort class, with extra services, that will enhance the travel experience for its passengers. □

This Sunday with Tsunami on stage

Bikini Beach Bash at MooMba Beach



MOOMBA BEACH - Ladies, start tanning your bods and wear your skimpiest bikini and guys, pump up the muscles for the upcoming Bikini Beach Bash at MooMba Beach, where the dress code is Bikini's and Board shorts. The party starts at 6 pm with the rousing salsa sounds of the popular band Tsunami. The stage, by the way, is courtesy of the Purple Entertainment Group, so it will be

stunning for sure.

After Tsunami the spotlight is on DJ Diablo, MooMba's house DJ of name and fame who will take care of the sizzling after-party. The reason for the party? The celebration of the end of a super summer. Happy Hour at MooMba Beach starts at 6 pm: various cocktails and Balashi Chill will be on special! □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

**NBA lockout:
Players,
owners
meet in
Manhattan**



NBA Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver talks to reporters after taking part in talks between the basketball league's owners and players Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Top negotiators for NBA owners and players met for about six hours Wednesday, just their second bargaining session since the league's lockout began.

Neither side offered any specifics or would say if progress was made, but said they hoped to have many more meetings in hopes of saving the entire season.

Commissioner David Stern, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver and San Antonio owner Peter Holt, head of the labor relations committee, represented the owners at a Manhattan hotel. Executive director Billy Hunter, union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers and attorney Ron Klempner attended from the union. The sides hadn't met since Aug. 1, despite saying they hoped to follow that with multiple sessions before the end of the month. □

Feds drop remaining charges against Bonds



PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal prosecutors on Wednesday dropped all the remaining charges against Barry Bonds, days after a judge upheld the slugger's conviction on

an obstruction of justice count. The U.S. attorney's office in San Francisco filed court papers informing U.S. District Judge Susan Illston it was dismissing the three charges of making false statements still pending against Bonds, Major Lead-

er Baseball's all-time home runs leader. A jury deadlocked on the three counts at Bonds' trial in April. The deadline for prosecutors to start the process for a retrial on those charges was about 30 days away.

Continued on Next Page

ILL-FATED LOSS



Venus Williams, No. 6 Soderling withdraw due to illness

Venus Williams, of the United States, pumps her fist after defeating Vesna Dolonts, of Russia, 6-4, 6-3 during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011.

Associated Press
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BONDS

Continued from Previous Page

Now, Bonds won't face a new trial on accusations that he lied to a grand jury back in 2003 when he testified that he never knowingly received steroids or human growth hormone from trainer Greg Anderson, and that no one other than his doctors ever injected him with anything.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Parrella declined comment. Bonds' lawyer, Allen Ruby, said that his client's legal team was focused on the slugger's sentencing hearing in December. Ruby declined to discuss whether Bonds intended to appeal the obstruction conviction. Bonds was among the biggest stars convicted as a result of an investigation into the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO) steroids ring, a probe headed by federal agent Jeff Novitzky that also ensnared Olympic



In this file photo taken March 21, 2011, former baseball Barry Bonds arrives at the federal courthouse in San Francisco. Bonds' obstruction of justice conviction was upheld Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, by a federal judge, who denied the former baseball star's motion for a new trial or acquittal on the charge.

Associated Press

gold medal-winning track star Marion Jones.

Bonds was initially charged in November 2007 with lying to the grand jury during a December 2003 appearance when he testified that his personal trainer misled him into believing the de-

signer steroids and performance enhancing drugs he was taking were legal supplements.

A majority of jurors this year voted to acquit him on charges he lied when he denied knowingly taking steroids and human growth

hormone. The jurors voted 11-1 to convict him for denying that anyone other than his doctor ever injected him.

Bonds faces a maximum of 10 years in prison, though federal guidelines recommend a sentence of 15 to

21 months.

Illston, who upheld the obstruction count last Friday, also is free to impose a lesser sentence, which she did after two previous trials involving a champion cyclist and track coach each convicted of lying in cases that grew out of the BALCO probe. Cyclist Tammy Thomas and track coach Trevor Graham each received sentences of house arrest. Many legal analysts believe Bonds will receive similar punishment.

Bonds, Thomas and Graham were the only three BALCO figures who pleaded not guilty and went to trial on charges of lying about performance enhancing drugs.

Prosecutors on Wednesday dismissed the counts "without prejudice," meaning they could reinstate the charges before the statute of limitations expires. However, that's a routine legal maneuver when dismissing criminal charges and dropped cases are rarely reinstated. □



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WNBA Roundup

Dream win yet Fever gets playoff berth

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta's Sancho Lytle sank a last-second jump shot to give the Dream a 92-90 win over Indiana on Tuesday, but the Fever still clinched a WNBA playoff berth.

The Dream trailed 88-83 with just over 2 minutes left, but fought back for yet another win over the Fever. Indiana is in first place in the Eastern Conference, but has dropped all three games to the Dream this season.

Angel McCoughtry had 28 points for Atlanta while Lytle had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Erin Phillips had 21 points for Indiana.

Silver Stars 78, Sun 66

In San Antonio, the hosts ended a six-game losing skid by defeating Phoenix. San Antonio's Becky Hammon scored 16 points and became the seventh play-

er in WNBA history to score 5,000 career points.

Sophia Young and Jia Perkins each scored 15 points for the Silver Stars, who increased their lead to two games over Los Angeles for the final playoff berth in the Western Conference. Connecticut still earned its first playoff berth since 2008 thanks to Chicago's loss to New York.

Liberty 71, Sky 67

In Newark, a powerful finishing burst saw New York come from 14 points down in the last quarter to beat Chicago.

Cappie Pondexter scored 19 point and Plenette Pierson had 17 for the Liberty, who turned the game on its head with a 22-2 run over a 6-1/2-minute spell.

Sylvia Fowles scored 22 points to lead Chicago.

Sparks 68, Storm 62

In Los Angeles, Candace

Parker scored a season-high 27 points, helping Los Angeles deny Seattle a chance to clinch a playoff berth.

Parker scored 10 of her points in the fourth quarter, including hitting three free throws in the final minute to seal it.

Tina Thompson had 12 points for the Sparks, who remained 1-1/2 games behind San Antonio for the final playoff spot in the West. Sue Bird led the Storm with 15 points.

Lynx 73, Mystics 56

In Minneapolis, Lindsay Whalen scored 21 points as Western Conference champion Minnesota kept rolling with a win against Washington. Maya Moore added nine points for Minnesota, which has won six games in a row. With Tuesday's win and Eastern Conference-leading Indiana's



Washington Mystics' DeMya Walker falls after making hard contact with Minnesota Lynx's Amber Harris (6) during the third quarter of a WNBA basketball game in Minneapolis on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011. The Lynx won 73-56.

Associated Press

loss at Atlanta, the Lynx are one win or an Indiana loss from clinching the WNBA's best record, which would guarantee home-court ad-

vantage throughout the playoffs. Crystal Langhorne had 13 points to lead the Mystics, who lost a ninth straight game. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II", is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

5pm.

Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jibed by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

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Driftwood Restaurant
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Tel: (297) 583 2515
www.driftwoodaruba.com
Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 1:00pm. □



Carmelita Jeter highlights U.S. sprints at worlds



USA's Carmelita Jeter poses with her gold medal during the Women's 100m medal ceremony at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011.

Associated Press

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

DAEGU, South Korea (AP)— Try as she might, Carmelita Jeter couldn't fall asleep the night of her surprise win in the 100 meters.

The American sprinter tossed and turned, replaying the race at the world championships over and over in her mind. Never has a restless night been so rewarding.

And yet it's the rest of the world that may be causing some sleepless nights for the U.S. sprinters in the build-up to next year's London Olympics. No longer are the powerful Jamaicans the only threat.

Instead, unknowns are bursting on the scene at the championships this week, stealing the spotlight from more traditional American stars such as Allyson Felix and LaShawn Merritt.

This was supposed to be Felix's race in the 400, the first leg of her difficult double that would culminate with her trying to win a fourth straight 200 title.

But an unheralded Amantha Montsho of Botswana used a strong finish to beat

Felix at the finish and leave the charismatic American wondering whether she will even go for the double in London.

Kirani James, a teenager from tiny Grenada, then unseated Merritt as champion in the men's 400 with a lean at the finish line. He was able to reel in Merritt over the final few meters, something that never used to happen.

Merritt is hardly race sharp as he's coming off a 21-month suspension for doping. He still has plenty of time to get back into elite form to compete in London, provided, of course, he's even eligible.

He has to wait on a verdict from the Court of Arbitration for Sport on the IOC's "six-month rule," which prevents athletes who receive doping bans of more than six months from competing at the next Summer or Winter Games. A decision is expected to be rendered in late September.

Nothing he can do about that. But on the track, it's completely within his power.

"I came in with a game

plan and didn't quite stick with the plan. That's on my part," said Merritt, who will be a member of the 4x400-meter relay that begins Thursday. "I'm feeling healthy. I still feel strong. I'm just looking to move forward." Even when Usain Bolt, the biggest star in track, isn't in the race, the United States failed to win gold. After Bolt jumped the gun and was disqualified in the 100 for a false start, another Jamaican, Yohan Blake, kept the title in the Caribbean island. Walter Dix couldn't close the gap and settled for silver.

That was a golden chance

It took her 10.90 seconds to erase that perception. When Jeter held off Veronica Campbell-Brown to finally win gold, she showed she can step up and may have just established herself as the favorite heading into the Olympics.

Now, she's feeling no stress heading into the 200.

"All the pressure is pretty much over," Jeter said.

That's not quite the case for Felix. She wanted to challenge herself at the worlds this year and just not focus on her signature event, the 200. A little drained from all the rounds of the 400—and no gold to show for it—she

"I think the disappointment really overshadows it," Felix said. "But I'm grateful for this experience, to be on this stage in the 400. If you would've asked me a few years ago, I would never have thought I would've been here (in the 400)."

Hardly a surprise, the Americans are in the mix at the top of the medal standings with nine overall, one fewer than Russia.

Another surprise gold for the Americans came from Jason Richardson, who crashed the party in the 110-meter hurdles.

The race featured the three fastest hurdlers in history—Dayron Robles, Liu Xiang and David Oliver.

Oh, and Richardson, too. He initially finished behind Cuban world-record holder Robles to take the silver. But Richardson was bumped up to winner when Robles was disqualified for repeatedly bumping the hand of Liu going over the final few hurdles.

"It still hasn't completely set in," said Richardson, a 25-year-old who trains in Southern California with Jeter under the direction of coach John Smith. "But I definitely know that it's coming because the moment is starting to get more and more real. I'm anticipating the final culmination when I realize I'm actually world champion."

For Jeter, that realization began to set in the moment her head hit the pillow the night of the race. Sleep would never arrive.

"I just couldn't turn my brain off," Jeter said. "I kept thinking of the joy of seeing everybody else's face so happy and so happy for me." □



USA's Jason Richardson celebrates with American flag after the Men's 110m Hurdles final at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. Cuba's Dayron Robles finished first but was later disqualified for making contact with China's Liu Xiang. After Robles' disqualification, Richardson was awarded the gold.

Associated Press

that slipped away. The competition is only going to be more heated in London, especially with Asafa Powell (groin) and Tyson Gay (hip) returning to the field after sitting out at the worlds.

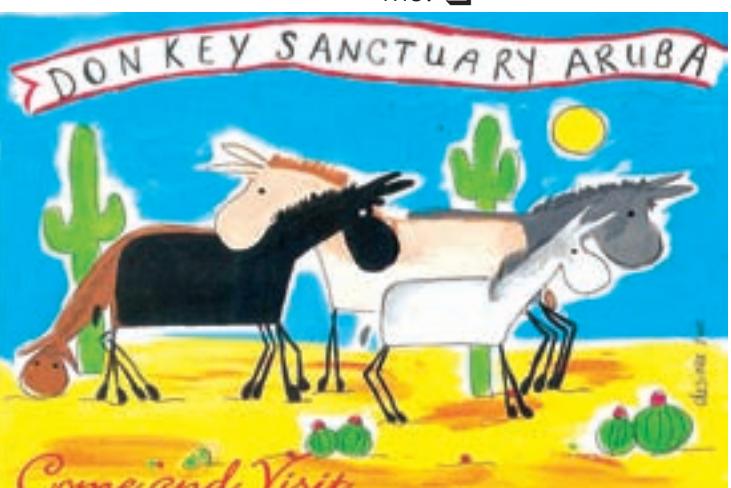
And don't count on Bolt false-starting there. That's probably not going to happen again to the world's fastest man.

Bolt will have a chance at atonement beginning Friday in the first round of the men's 200, while it's Jeter who will be going for a surprising sprint double in Daegu.

Sure, she had the fastest time in the world this season in the 100. But given the Jamaicans dominance in the event and Jeter's history of not coming through in big races, she seemed like an unlikely winner.

will have her hands full with Campbell-Brown & Co. As for whether she might double in London, Felix said she won't make any decisions until after the worlds, once she's had a chance to assess how much strain the two events placed on her body.

She did set a personal best in the 400, though, finishing in 49.59 seconds, a fraction behind Montsho.



Venus Williams out of U.S. Open; Zvonareva wins

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Open's most stunning loss Wednesday was bigger than just the Grand Slam tournament, with Venus Williams withdrawing and revealing she's suffering from an autoimmune disease.

The seven-time major champion said in a statement that she was recently diagnosed with Sjogren's Syndrome, "an ongoing medical condition that affects my energy level and causes fatigue and joint pain."

The 31-year-old Williams pulled out of two hard-court tuneup tournaments this summer because she was not feeling well. But she came back at Flushing Meadows, and in her first match in two months, Williams beat Vesna Dolonts 6-4, 6-3 on Monday.

She was supposed to play 22nd-seeded Sabine Lisicki in the second round. Instead, the women's field is even more uncertain.

"I think she's a tough girl and I think she'll come back," said Lisicki, who saw Williams on Wednesday wearing match clothing and was surprised to learn she'd withdrawn.

Before the news broke that the older Williams sister was out, Vera Zvonareva was already happy just to advance. In a wide-open women's draw, that counts for a lot — and that became even more true with Williams' exit.

The second-seeded Russian needed three ragged sets to reach the third round, beating 69th-ranked Kateryna Bondarenko 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. With the winners of the last four major tournaments missing from the second round, players with a lot of Grand Slam experience are in short supply. Zvonareva has that, losing in the final at Wimbledon and here at Flushing Meadows in 2010.

"I wouldn't say I'm pleased with the quality of tennis I showed, but I'm pleased the way I handled the match," said Zvonareva, who overcame 46 un-



Venus Williams, of the United States, returns against Vesna Dolonts, of Russia, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011.

Associated Press



Christina McHale returns a shot to Marion Bartoli of France during the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011.

Associated Press

Yao asks that basketball Hall nomination be put on hold



CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Yao

Ming's agent has asked the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to set aside the former NBA All-Star center's nomination for another year.

Yao, who retired in July, was nominated by a member of the Chinese media as a contributor to the game, and would've been eligible for induction as early as 2012. But Hall of Fame president and CEO John Doleva said Yao's agent, John Huizinga, called on Wednesday to request that Yao's nomination be tabled for now.

Huizinga did not immediately return a phone message.

Doleva said Huizinga told him that Yao feels it's too soon for him to be placed on the ballot.

"He (Huizinga) indicated that Yao has great respect for the institution and equal respect for those elected before his consideration," Doleva said. "He just feels that it's too soon to be considered as a contributor."

An eight-time All-Star with the Houston Rockets, Yao's career was cut short by foot and leg injuries. □

pain and a headache, and a doctor recommended he not play.

One American teen pulled a big upset on the women's side, while another couldn't hold onto a lead. Christina McHale reached the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time, beating eighth-seeded Marion Bartoli in straight sets.

The 19-year-old from Englewood Cliffs, N.J., won 7-6 (2), 6-2. She's ranked a career-high 55th and beat No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki in Cincinnati this month.

McHale clinched the victory in style, winning the final point on an ace. The youngest woman in the top 100, McHale was playing in her eighth major tournament. Bartoli, a 26-year-old Frenchwoman, was a semi-finalist at Roland Garros this year. Earlier at that Grand Slam tournament, McHale was up 5-0 in the third set but let it slip away and was beaten 6-7 (4), 6-2, 9-7 by Sara Errani. McHale didn't lose any leads this time.

"That was a really, really tough loss for me," she said. "But I think it's helped me to learn how to close out matches earlier."

Madison Keys couldn't hold onto several leads in her second-round match, eventually falling to 27th-seeded Lucie Safarova in three sets. "I must say, she's a very good player for her age," the 24-year-old Safarova said after winning 3-6, 7-5, 6-4. In her major tournament debut Monday, Keys became the youngest player since 2005 to win a match at Flushing Meadows.

At No. 455, she was the lowest-ranked woman in the field. The 16-year-old from Boca Raton, Fla., won the first five games in taking the opening set. Keys went up a break in the second before letting the lead slip away. And in the third set, she twice broke Safarova only to give the lead back in the following game.

A third American teen, 19-year-old CoCo Vandeweghe, lost in straight sets, falling to ninth-seeded Sam Stosur of Australia 6-3, 6-4. □

Technology Briefs

IBM buys software company i2

ARMONK, New York (AP) — IBM Corp. on Wednesday said it had agreed to buy i2 Group, a British company that sells software for intelligence analysis and fraud prevention.

Terms were not disclosed. The seller is investment fund Silver Lake Sumeru, which bought i2 from ChoicePoint Inc. in 2008 for \$185 million.

i2 has 350 employees. It's based in Cambridge and has offices in McLean, Virginia; Tucson, Arizona; Ottawa, Ontario; and Canberra, Australia.

IBM expects the deal to close in the fourth quarter. A separate company with a similar name, i2 Technologies, was acquired by JDA Software Group Inc. on 2010.

IBM shares rose 21 cents to \$172.72 in midday trading. □

Volvo, Siemens in car cooperation

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish automaker Volvo Cars says it is joining forces with Germany's Siemens AG in the development of a new line of electric cars. Volvo, owned by China's Geely Holding Group, says Siemens will make the electric motors that will be fitted into Volvo C30 Electric vehicles.

The deal covers the development of electrical drive technology, power electronics and charging technology.

The first line of cars will be tested at the end of this year and Volvo is expected to deliver a test series of some 200 cars to Siemens in early 2012.

Volvo Cars CEO Stefan Jacoby said Wednesday the partnership would bring the technology of Volvo's electric cars "up to an entirely new level."

He added Volvo's aim "is to be first with the latest technology within electrification." □

Yelp narrows focus for online deals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Online reviews site Yelp is making a change to the way it allocates its sales force to the online deal service it launched last year. The move comes less than a week after Facebook shuttered a similar program that failed to gain traction in a market dominated by Groupon.

In a post Tuesday on the Yelp blog, CEO Jeremy Stoppelman said Yelp Deals isn't closing, but that it shrank from a team of 30 focused on selling deals and local ads to 15 people that will only work on deals.

He wrote, "We'll continue to email out any amazing Deals we find; rest assured when it comes to quality vs quantity, we'll choose quality every time."

Yelp Deals offers occasional deals in 20 markets, including San Francisco and New York. □



Video game console case offers gaming on the go

RON HARRIS
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Console gaming on the go just got easier thanks to a mobile gaming kit that comes with a built-in high-definition display screen to connect to your Xbox 360 or Sony PlayStation system.

The GAEMS G155, short for Gaming and Entertainment Mobile Systems, is essentially a heavy-duty briefcase with the display neatly fixed to the inner lid. Your game console is positioned inside and held in place tightly by two wide fabric fasteners straps.

A short HDMI cable comes with the unit and connects your game console to a port near the bottom of the display. Two pouches are available for power cords and a controller or two.

That's pretty much the simple science behind this \$299 unit. Once you've put your console in, you can play "Call of Duty: Black Ops" to your heart's content anywhere there's a power outlet.



The GAEMS G155, a rugged game console case with a built-in high-definition display, is displayed Monday, Aug. 29, 2011 in Atlanta, Ga.

Associated Press

The system supports recent models of Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox 360 and Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 3. You'd have to buy those separately. (Nintendo Co.'s Wii isn't supported because it doesn't have an HDMI jack.) The build quality of the unit is fine. The console sits on a padded base that helps prevent it from slipping around in the case. I noticed no shifting as I carried my PlayStation 3 from room

to room and to the office. The 15.5-inch (39-centimeter) LED HD display delivered crisp colors and sharp detail during my tests playing a FIFA soccer game and a few shooters titles. High-definition videos I had saved on the PS3 hard drive also looked fine. The volume, brightness and menu buttons at the bottom of the display glow red and offer easy access and usability. □

Sony, Toshiba, Hitachi join forces in mid-sized displays



In this April 26, 2011 file photo, Sony's prototype tablets code-named, S1, left, and S2, are shown in Tokyo.

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The display businesses of three major Japanese electronics makers are joining forces to become more competitive in small and medium-sized panels — a sector that's expected to grow because of the popularity of smartphones and tablets. The display-business subsidiaries of Sony Corp., Toshiba Corp. and Hitachi Ltd.

agreed to sign a deal later this year and to complete the business combination by the first few months of next year, the companies said Wednesday.

Japanese media reports said the combined forces of the three companies will make them the world's No. 1 in small and medium-sized displays.

Japanese electronics mak-

ers have had a tough time fighting competition from Apple Inc. and its iPod and iPad hits as well as the display prowess of South Korean makers such as Samsung Electronics Co.

The latest move shows that the Japanese are determined to make a comeback but have decided they can't do it alone.

The companies said they think still have an edge in technological innovation in displays, but they have to act quickly because rivals are also investing in the sector.

The subsidiary shares will be transferred to a new company called Japan Display, which will be aggressive in research in new kinds of displays, including making them thinner and higher resolution, they said. □

What about an early French dinner?

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Nursing bras that show mothers in more than 'work mode'

CATHERINE SAINT LOUIS

© 2011 New York Times

Maternity and nursing bras have long been the ugly stepsisters to gorgeously constructed lingerie. If you became pregnant or nursed your child, scratchy, unadorned, matronly bras – probably colored inconspicuously “nude” or white – were your lot. Elisabeth Dale, the founder of the website The Breast Life, which has bra reviews and health information, says she thinks this was because functionality and sex appeal can seem incompatible.

When your breasts “are in work mode, they don’t get to wear nice fabrics,” she said wryly, adding that you’re “sterilizing” your breasts “by putting them in a boring white milk curtain.”

But perhaps not anymore. Some of today’s maternity and nursing bras boast lace in conspicuous hues like coral or purple, with added features like rhinestones, and coy nicknames like Awakened by Her Desire and She Craved a Little Decadence. This, of course, along with convenient hooks that allow each cup to drop for easy access to hungry newborns, extra fastenings to accommodate diaphragm growth and comfortable linings.

In the last few years, a growing number of niche lingerie companies, like You Lingerie, Cake, and HOTmilk, have begun selling unapologetically provocative maternity bras that they say can be a pick-me-up for new mothers during a stressful time. “It’s really about celebrating the sexy woman inside the loving mother,” said Lisa Ebbing, the market-

ing director at HOTmilk, an import from New Zealand that had one of its video ads of a stunning mother-to-be in a matching bra and panty placed under age restrictions by YouTube after viewers flagged it.

“I love being a mother, but lingerie is not for a mother,” Ebbing said, defending the images.

“It’s for a woman.”

Tiffany Holtzinger, 24, a stay-at-home mother in York, Pa., recalled that, when she decided to breastfeed her third child, she refused to settle for “plain, frumpy-looking bras” that she found “disgusting.” A month after her son’s birth, Holtzinger bought Cake’s navy-and-white floral-print balcony-shaped bra on Zulily, a daily-deals website, to add to her collection of three HOTmilk bras, one in navy with contrasting cobalt mesh frill on cups and straps.

“I can see myself wearing these after I’m done nursing,” she said. (To do just that, Bravado Designs,

known for its more basic styles, has a kit to remove shoulder clips after weaning.)

Kirsten Cannon, 20, an ac-

HOTmilk’s Radiant in Her Rescue, a peachy floral-print bra offset with gardenia-patterned lace (roughly \$40 with underwear). “I

lebrities flaunting bared bumps for magazine covers, or “yummy mummies” at the local playground. Designer maternity garb runs the gamut from flirty to sophisticated. Perhaps it was only a matter of time that expectant and nursing mothers sought out provocative underthings with distinctive details, a world away from the black T-shirt bra look-alikes sold at outlets like Destination Maternity.

Tracey Montford, the designer of Cake Lingerie, said she was inspired to help start the company, based in Sydney, Australia, because “baggy matronly lingerie doesn’t make you feel good.”

“I enjoy my fashion,” she said, but “I had horrendous bras peeking through the top and ruining my outfits.” Apparently Aussies are ahead of the curve, as it were: The model-turned-entrepreneur Elle Macpherson has had a few nursing and maternity styles on the market since 2005. □



The Blueberry Soft Cup Nursing Bra by Cake Lingerie. A number of designers have lately added flair to undergarments for a group long ignored in fashion: nursing mothers.

(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

tress and a waitress in Paducah, Ky., says she made do with basic nursing bras she bought at Walmart until her daughter, Georgia, was 9 months old. “I had reached a point that I’d almost forgotten who I was as a woman,” Cannon said, explaining why she bought

needed a pick-me-up. I needed my husband to look at me like I wasn’t just Georgia’s mom.”

Much has changed in the two decades since the Vanity Fair cover of Demi Moore naked in her third trimester caused a stir. There is now no shortage of ce-

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Govt sues to block AT&T, T-Mobile merger

JOELLE TESSLER

PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department took the unusual step Wednesday to try to block AT&T's \$39 billion purchase of T-Mobile USA, arguing that the proposed merger would lead to higher wireless prices, less innovation and fewer choices for consumers.

Now AT&T, America's No. 2 wireless carrier, and No. 4 T-Mobile are plotting a legal response to challenge federal regulators.

In its civil antitrust lawsuit, the Justice Department said the merger would stifle competition in the wireless industry. The deal, which is still under review at the Federal Communications Commission, would catapult AT&T past Verizon Wireless to become the nation's largest wireless carrier, leaving Sprint Nextel as a distant third-place player and certain to struggle.

AT&T quickly signaled that it won't abandon the transaction, leading to expectations of a fierce court battle.



This file combination photo displays logos for AT&T, left, and Deutsche Telekom AG. The Justice Department filed suit Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, to block AT&T's \$39 billion deal to buy T-Mobile USA on grounds that it would raise prices for consumers.

AT&T has several incentives to take up a legal fight with regulators. In court, the burden is on the Justice Department — not AT&T — to show that the combination would harm competition. If the deal doesn't go through, the company will be forced to pay T-Mobile a \$3 billion break-up fee and give it some wireless

spectrum rights.

AT&T said it will ask for an expedited court hearing "so the enormous benefits of this merger can be fully reviewed." In a statement, T-Mobile's owner, the German company Deutsche Telekom, said it is disappointed by the Justice Department's action and "will join AT&T in defending the

contemplated merger." The companies could wage a strong defense in court. Morgan Reed, executive director of the trade group, Association for Competitive Technology, said AT&T has at least one key fact on its side: Deutsche Telekom has said it does not plan to continue to invest in upgrading the T-Mobile network to

Associated Press

Solar company that got federal loan shuts down

BY KEVIN FREKING

JASON DEAREN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A California solar-panel manufacturer once touted by President Barack Obama as a beneficiary of his administration's economic policies — as well as a half-billion-dollar federal loan — is laying off 1,100 workers and filing for bankruptcy.

Solyndra LLC of Fremont, California, had become the poster child for government investment in green technology.

The president visited the company in May 2010 and noted that Solyndra expected to hire 1,000 workers to manufacture solar panels. Other state and federal officials such as former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Energy Secretary Steven

Chu also visited the company's facilities.

But hard times have hit the nation's solar industry. Solyndra is the third solar company to seek bankruptcy protection this month. Officials said Wednesday that the global economy as well as unfavorable conditions in the solar industry combined to force the company to suspend its manufacturing operations.

The price for solar panels has tanked largely because of heavy competition from Chinese companies, dropping by about 42 percent this year.

Republicans have been looking into the Solyndra loan for months. The House Energy and Commerce Committee subpoenaed documents relating to the loan from the White House

Office of Management and Budget. Republican Reps. Fred Upton of Michigan and Cliff Stearns of Florida issued a joint statement on Wednesday saying it was clear that Solyndra was a dubious investment.

"We smelled a rat from the onset," the two lawmakers said.

It was clear shortly after the company's announcement that its bankruptcy would serve as further ammunition to criticize an economic stimulus bill that provided seed money for solar startups. Upton and Stearns said they would continue to seek documents that would provide more details about the Solyndra loan.

"Unfortunately, Solyndra is just the latest casualty of the Obama administration's failed stimulus, emblematic



Solyndra workers leave Solyndra in Fremont, Calif., Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011. The solar-panel manufacturer that received a \$535 million loan from the U.S. government has announced layoffs of 1,100 workers and plans to file for bankruptcy.

Associated Press

of an economic policy that has not worked and will not work. We hope this informs the president ahead of his address to Congress next week," the two lawmakers said. □

deliver faster wireless. That means, "T-Mobile is not a competitor anymore," Reed said.

"T-Mobile has already stepped away from the table," Reed noted. "We're at three nationwide wireless carriers no matter what."

The association, which represents more than 3,000 small and independent application developers, believes the merger would benefit the wireless broadband industry.

In addition, the Justice Department lawsuit portrays T-Mobile as having been a strong competitor in the past, but merger analysis is forward looking, said Washington attorney Robert Bell, who has represented clients in mergers for over 25 years. "To the extent AT&T can show there's good reason to believe that T-Mobile is going to be a very different kind of competitor in the future — for example, weaker financially, less innovative — then the lawsuit becomes quite a bit different," Bell said.

University of Notre Dame law professor Joseph Bauer said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the Justice Department's challenge of the deal because it has become so rare for the antitrust regulators to block major mergers during the past decade.

During a news conference, Deputy Attorney General James Cole said the merger would result in "tens of millions of consumers all across the United States facing higher prices, fewer choices and lower quality products for mobile wireless services."

T-Mobile has been an important source of competition, including through innovation and quality enhancements such as the roll-out of the first nationwide high-speed data network, according to Sharis Pozen, acting chief of Justice's antitrust division.

AT&T and T-Mobile compete nationwide, in 97 of the largest 100 cellular marketing areas, according to the suit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington. □

Strong autos drove July factory orders up 2.4 pct.

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factory orders rose strongly in July on the biggest jump in demand for autos in more than eight years and a surge in commercial airplane orders. The increase suggests supply chain disruptions created by the Japan crisis are easing.

Factory orders climbed 2.4 percent, the largest increase since March, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. Orders for motor vehicles and parts rose 9.8 percent, the largest one-month gain since January 2003.

The increase followed a decline of 0.4 percent in June, one of several reports that stoked fears the country could fall back into a recession. Wall Street appeared encouraged by the better-than-expected report. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 50 points Wednesday.

Economists at RDQ Economics said the July gain suggests manufacturing will

grow modestly.

Manufacturing has been one of the leading sectors since the recession officially ended two years ago. But higher energy prices and a parts shortage caused by the Japanese natural disasters slowed activity this spring.

The July report showed pockets of lingering weakness. A key category that tracks business investment plans declined 0.9 percent in July. That followed a 0.8 percent rise in the previous month.

Excluding the volatile transportation categories, orders rose a more modest 0.9 percent in July, still the best showing for this category since March.

The report showed that orders for durable goods, products expected to last at least three years, rose 4.1 percent in June, slightly better than the 4 percent increase shown in a preliminary estimate last week. Orders for nondurable goods, products such as chemicals, paper and food, were

up 1 percent in July after a much smaller 0.2 percent increase in June.

The overall increase pushed total orders to \$453.2 billion, up 33.8 percent from the recession low hit in March 2009.

The economy grew at an annual rate of just 0.7 percent in the first six months of this year, the weakest performance since the recession ended two years ago. Markets became more turbulent over the last month as Europe's debt crisis intensified and U.S. lawmakers fought over to increase the U.S. debt limit. The prolonged debate over the debt ceiling led Standard & Poor's to lower its rating on U.S. long-term debt for the first time in history.

A handful of reports showed that growth picked up at the start July-September quarter. In July, consumer spending rose by the most in five months and the economy created twice the number of jobs as in each of the previous two months. □

Oil above \$87 amid improving U.S. consumer demand

ALEX KENNEDY

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Oil prices hovered above \$87 a barrel Tuesday in Asia amid signs of improving consumer demand in the U.S.

Benchmark oil for October delivery was down 19 cents to \$87.08 at late afternoon Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude rose \$1.90 to settle at \$87.27 on Monday.

In London, Brent crude for October delivery was down 35 cents at \$111.53 on the ICE Futures exchange.

Crude has jumped 16 percent from near \$76 three weeks ago amid growing investor optimism the U.S. economy may not slip into recession in the second

half.

On Monday, the Commerce Department said consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of the nation's economic activity, increased in July by the biggest amount in five months.

A rally in global stock markets also helped boost crude prices. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.3 percent Monday and most Asia stock markets gained Tuesday.

Some analysts expect crude to head lower as slowing global economic growth pinches oil demand.

"We still look for weak global demand to win out over the longer term eventually forcing the oil market into



In this June 21, 2011 photo, Shell gas customer Carissa Wiley, of Fresno, Calif., pumps gas at a Shell gas station in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

fresh low territory," energy consultant Ritterbusch and Associates said in a report. In other Nymex trading for October contracts, heating oil rose 0.4 cent to \$3.02 per gallon and gasoline futures gained 0.4 cent to \$2.77 per gallon. Natural gas slid 1.9 cents to \$3.81 per 1,000 cubic feet. □



In this July 27, 2011 photo, autoworkers work on a Chevrolet Volt at the General Motors Hamtramck Assembly plant in Hamtramck, Mich. Factory orders rose in July, helped by increased demand for autos and commercial aircraft Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011.

Associated Press

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Anton Yelchin Colin Farrell

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Jason Momoa Stephen Lang

PG-13

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PG-13

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Steve Carell Ryan Gosling

PG-13

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Ryan Reynolds Jason Bateman

PG

THE CHANGE-UP

PG-13

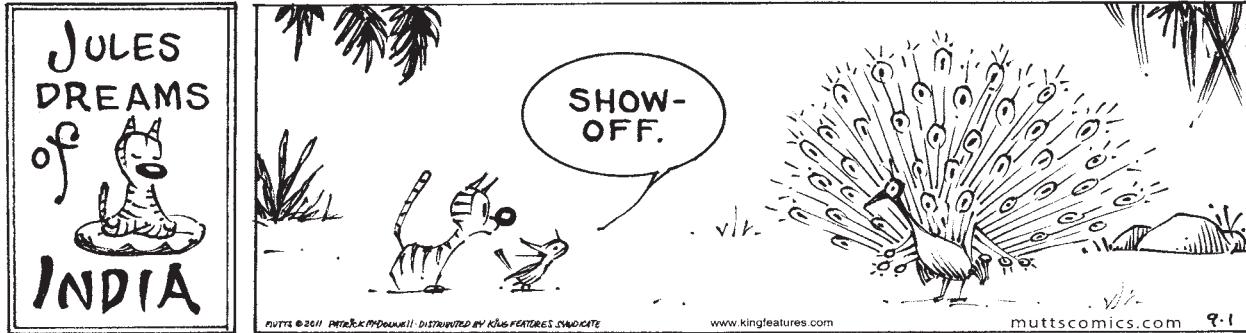
THE SMURFS

3D With Spanish Subtitles
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Sat, Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00

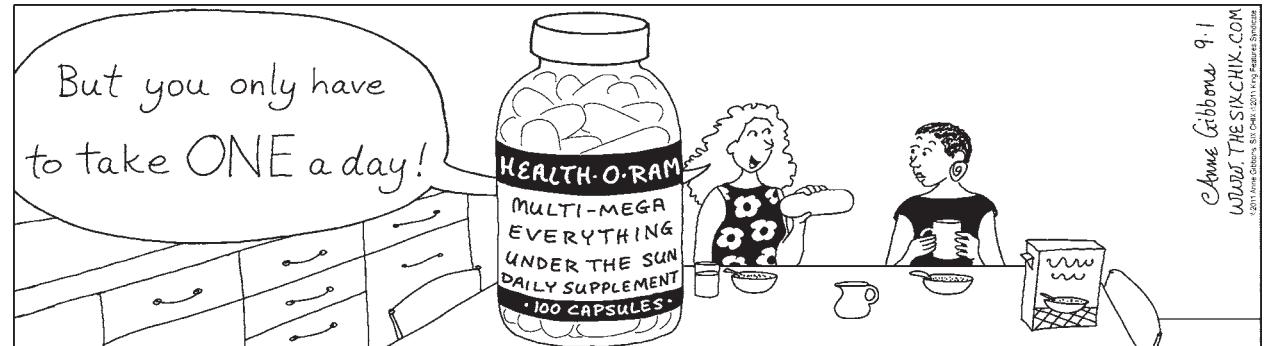
STARTING NEXT WEEK SEPTEMBER 8

DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK

Mutts



6 Chix



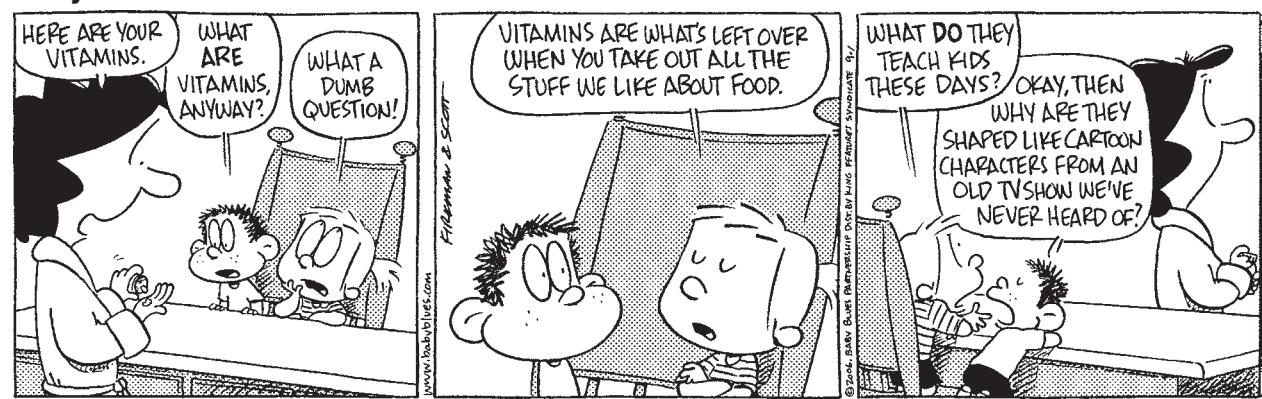
Blondie



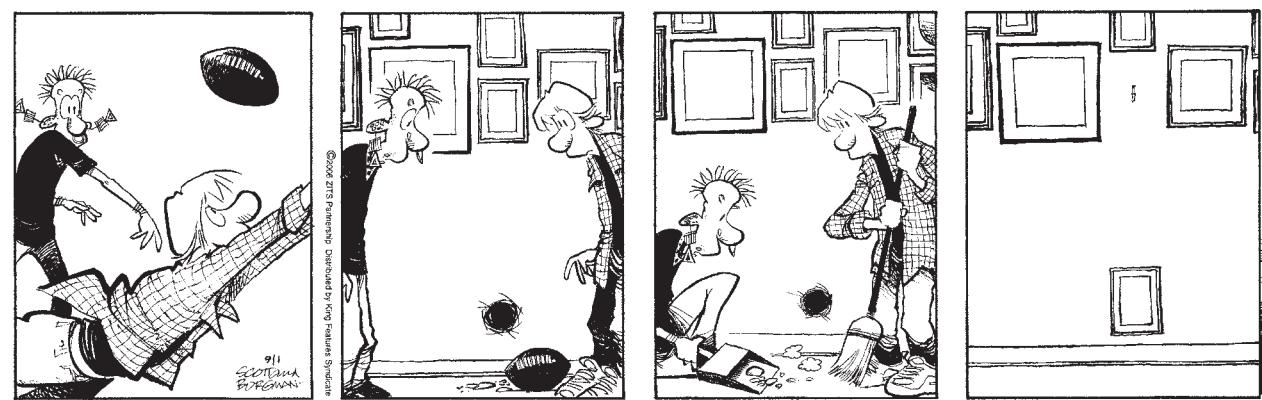
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9								3
7			1				8	
6				3	2	9		
	6		4			7		
		5				7		
			2		1		9	
				1	8	7		3
				8		3		1
				6			9	

Difficulty Level ★★★

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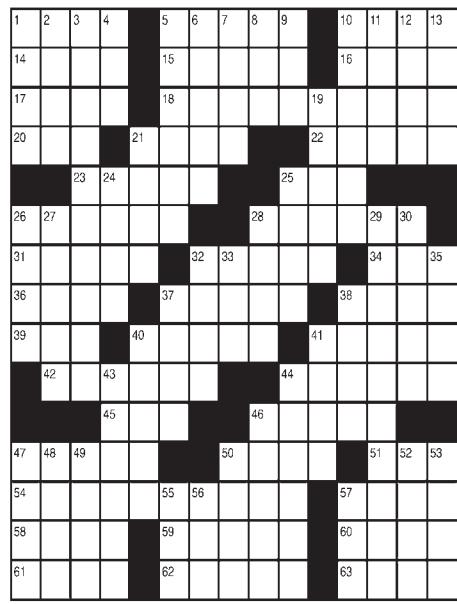
9/1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	5	4	7	1	3	9	2	8
1	7	9	5	2	8	6	3	4
2	3	8	6	9	4	1	5	7
8	6	1	4	3	5	2	7	9
5	9	3	2	7	6	8	4	1
7	4	2	1	8	9	3	6	5
9	8	7	3	4	2	5	1	6
4	2	6	8	5	1	7	9	3
3	1	5	9	6	7	4	8	2

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9/01



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	E	M	E	A	L	S	B	E	A	R
P	A	V	E	R	N	I	E	O	T	T	O
A	L	E	S	L	A	T	E	L	A	O	S
E	N	C	L	O	C	I	S	E	P	Y	
N	C	O	N	S	E	A	D	E	A	R	
O	C	E	R	O	N	T	E	R			
R	E	A	S	E	A	S	A	G			
A	N	T	S	C	O	A	S	T	D	I	R
I	C	E	C	I	N	D	Y	V	A	L	E
C	I	D	Y	F	E	I	S	A	E	I	T
L	E	T	H	A	R	G	Y	F	E	I	S
H	A	R	G	Y	F	E	I	S	E	I	T
A	R	G	Y	F	E	I	S	E	I	E	T
C	O	I	L	E	I	S	E	I	E	I	T

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5 Dark, fine-grained rock
 6 To no __;
 7 __ up; delayed
 8 "You __ what
 9 __ a boy!"
 10 __ sausage;
 11 Mimicked
 12 Untainted
 13 Requests
 14 Gets cracked &
 15 Spike on a
 16 Rosary piece
 17 Relinquish
 18 voluntarily
 19 Bangkok native
 20 Deadly snakes
 21 Concluded
 22 Sharp, shrill cry
 23 Part of some
 24 school names
 25 Nap
 26 Stay away from
 27 Leave out
 28 Punctuation
 29 mark
 30 Stack
 31 Concept
 32 Rhett Butler's
 33 The Matterhorn
 34 or Mont Blanc
 35 Too inquisitive
 36 Brief haircut
 37 Actress Turner
 38 Stuffs
 39 Acquires
 40 AKC divisions
 41 Gold-plated
 42 Colander
 43 Female sheep
 44 instrument
 45 Galloped
 46 Pig's home

Classifieds

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Fire Dept. II 582-1108
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pa Prohimo
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Women in Difficulties

Foundation
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CLASSIFIED | 27

Thursday, September 1, 2011

Today is Gloria Estefan's birthday Today In History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, September 1, the 244th day of 2011. There 121 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1494 - France's King Charles VIII invades Italy to claim throne of Naples.

1674 - William of Orange takes Grave, Belgium, but is unable to invade France.

1706 - British successfully defend Charleston, South Carolina, against French and Spanish.

1969 - A Libyan Arab Republic is proclaimed as the army stages a coup, deposing the monarchy and bringing Moammar Gadhafi into power.

the airliner enters Soviet air space, killing 269 people.

1990 - Two Germanys sign a treaty that provides the blueprint for merging the countries.

1992 - France joins United States and British allies in enforcing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

1993 - Bosnia's government rejects a plan to end 17 months of ethnic warfare and peace talks collapse.

1994 - San Francisco Superior Court jury awards a former secretary at Baker & McKenzie, the world's largest law firm, a record US\$7.1 million in punitive damages in a sexual-harassment case against the firm.

1995 - French navy commandos arrest two Greenpeace divers at the South Pacific atoll where France is to conduct an underground nuclear test.

1996 - Helmer Herrera Buitrago, a reputed leader of Colombia's Cali drug cartel, surrenders to authorities. He is the last of seven men believed to have been leaders of the cartel.

1998 - Vietnam's best-known dissident, Doan Viet Hoat, is freed as part of an amnesty for 5,219 inmates to mark Vietnam's National Day. He is immediately sent into exile in Thailand.

2001 - Forty-four people are killed in one of Tokyo's worst fires, when an explosion and blaze rip through a crowded gambling parlor and bar in the capital's most popular late-night entertainment area.

2003 - A three-member Israeli government commission issues a landmark report that found widespread official discrimination against the country's Arab citizens.

2009 - Libya stages a lavish spectacle, parading white-robed horsemen and gold-turbaned dancers as jets streaked overhead to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the coup that brought Moammar Gadhafi to power in the oil-rich nation.

2010 — President Barack Obama convenes the first direct Israeli-Palestinian talks in two years, challenging Mideast leaders to seize a fleeting opportunity to settle their differences and deliver peace to a region haunted by decades of hostility.

Today's Birthdays:

Engelbert Humperdinck, German composer (1854-1921); Edgar Rice Burroughs, U.S. novelist (1875-1950); A(bhay) C(haranaravinda) Bhaktivedanta, Indian founder of Hare Krishna movement (1896-1977); Rocky Marciano, U.S. boxer (1923-1969); Seiji Ozawa, Japanese-American conductor (1935--); Lily Tomlin, U.S. actress/comedian (1939--); Gloria Estefan, Cuban-American singer (1957--). □



Thought for Today:
With history being made all the time, every day now seems to be the first anniversary of something awful — Anonymous.

Building New York up, to set it on fire in the Nevada desert

ADRIANE QUINLAN

© 2011 New York Times

On Thursday, New York City will burn to the ground. Preposterous? Not if you happen to be in the Nevada desert, outside Reno. There you can watch the city being burned. In effigy. That effigy is a structure that includes MetroCards, re-creations of four city bridges and a 20-foot-wide map of the subway – with-

the desert to do what they could not at home: dress in wacky homemade costumes, live for a week without a car, spend all night dancing to DJs, acquire food without money (the festival encourages acts of gift-giving) and build campsites that revolve around their disparate interests. The festival last year drew 51,000 people. Started as a bonfire on a

of laptops. The regional effigies are a way to encourage local groups to share what they do at home.

"This is a really nice way to get engaged with these groups," Andie Grace, a festival spokeswoman, said of local Burning Man communities that have started their own festivals in recent years.

New York's effigy is the



Volunteers work on wooden leaves with messages on them that are part of a large effigy for Nevada's Burning Man festival, in New York, July 23, 2011. For the first time in 25 years, festival organizers asked regional groups from Dublin to Hawaii to bring their own effigies, creating a veritable Epcot for neo-hippies.

(Andrea Morales/The New York Times)

out the G train. Before it combusts, it will emit the shrieks of children in Central Park and the grumble of a jackhammer, as recorded from an apartment window in Queens. A tree, like the one that "grows in Brooklyn," will rise from the map. And on its branches, leaves, covered with menus for takeout Chinese food, will flutter in the desert winds.

But this conflagration will not be motivated by protest or anger. The 12-foot tall effigy, which was erected in Brooklyn, is a contribution from a group of New Yorkers attending the annual Burning Man festival. The festival is a paradox of sorts: a convention for the unconventional, a meet-up for wanderers. There America's rebels convene in

California beach. Burning Man is named for the man-shaped effigy whose burning at the end of the week gives the festival its name. But the Circle of Regional Effigies, or CORE, as event organizers are calling it, will be the largest coordinated burn in the event's history. For the first time in 25 years, festival organizers asked regional groups from Dublin to Hawaii to bring their own effigies, creating a veritable EPCOT for neo-hippies. New York's totem, called Tree of Heaven, will stand shoulder to shoulder with a 16-foot high bourbon barrel from Kentucky, a taco truck from Los Angeles, a showgirl from Las Vegas and a lobster trap from Maine big enough to sit in. Silicon Valley is taking an effigy that includes wooden versions

vision of Kat and Jesse Green, a couple from Brooklyn, who on a recent Saturday invited volunteers to a studio to help build the tree. They stood atop the circular subway map they had spent months building, explaining how they had altered the city's official version to fit their own preferences. Here, the No. 7 line never runs express. The G line was gone.

"The G train doesn't exist anyway," Green, 32, said. "If you've ever spent any time waiting for the G, you know that."

As on the official subway map, Staten Island was downsized. New Jersey was a strip of beige across the Hudson, but there was no way to get there. "It was more than we wanted to bite off," he said. □

Gibson to pay ex \$750K to settle nasty legal fight



Mel Gibson's ex-girlfriend, Russian-born singer, songwriter Oksana Grigorieva, talks during a news conference in Moscow. Los Angeles Superior Court officials said in a statement that Gibson and Grigorieva, have reached a settlement of their bitterly fought separation.

(AP Photo/Mikhail Metzel, File)

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Mel Gibson will pay \$750,000 to his ex-girlfriend and continue to provide housing and financial support for their young daughter to resolve a bitter legal fight that followed sexist, racist rants attributed to the actor.

The settlement disclosed Wednesday is intended to end the bickering and accusations that have permeated the case handled in mostly secret proceedings for more than a year, Judge Peter Lichtman said. Gibson's payments to Russian musician Oksana Grigorieva are dependent on a lasting truce.

As part of the agreement, their daughter will receive support equal to what the actor-director provides for his other seven children. The former couple will split custody of the girl, who

turns 2 in late October.

In addition, Gibson will keep paying for a multimillion house he purchased for Grigorieva and their daughter. The house will be sold when the girl turns 18 and she will receive the proceeds.

As a result of the settlement, Grigorieva cannot pursue a civil case against the Oscar winner, and both sides were ordered not to speak or write about their relationship or allegations of domestic abuse.

Lichtman specifically said neither side could release any audio recordings, an apparent reference to the series of rants that were leaked to the celebrity website RadarOnline.com. "You look like a (expletive) bitch in heat, and if you get raped by a pack of (N-word), it will be your fault," the voice is heard telling Grigorieva in one tape. □

George Clooney rules out political bid in US

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Idealism loses out to cynicism in George Clooney's political drama "The Ides of March," which opens the Venice Film Festival.

Clooney directs and acts in the political drama that features Ryan Gosling as a gung-ho press secretary swept into a sex scandal in the final days of a Democratic presidential primary in Ohio. Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Paul Giamatti are rival campaign managers who use loyalty as a weapon in their epic battle for victory.

Marisa Tomei plays a Times reporter angling for scoops on the campaign trail. And Evan Rachel Wood, a pretty campaign volunteer eager to play in the big leagues, is yet another figure giving female political interns a bad rap.

Clooney's idealistic presi-

dential candidate, Pennsylvania Gov. Mike Morris, has a straightforward platform: He's nonreligious but defends the freedom of religion.

He also opposes the death penalty and wants to phase out internal combustion engines to reduce American dependence on foreign oil.

Clooney plays the presidential candidate, but told reporters at the festival Wednesday he is not looking to be one in real life.

"As for running for president, look, there's a guy in office right now who is smarter than almost anyone you know, who's nicer and who has more compassion than almost anyone you know. And he's having an almost impossible time governing. Why would anybody volunteer for that job?" Clooney told a news conference.

"I have a really good job. I get to hang out with very

seductive people. So I have no interest," Clooney said. For Clooney, the film wasn't so much a political movie as a morality tale, explor-

jocular Clooney said, but the questions the film poses reside in many areas of life. "You could literally put this in Wall Street, or you could

not you are willing to trade your soul for an outcome," Clooney said.

In the film, many characters use seduction to get what they want: to get closer to power, to undermine the other campaign, to win political backing.

Giamatti called his character "an unabashedly seductive guy." His play to recruit Gosling's character to the rival campaign opens the film's exploration of loyalty and friendship in politics.

"My character is all about seduction ... the whole game of politics is a kind of sexy game in America, and I think (the movie) portrays it really well," Giamatti said. And while Clooney and his fellow actors are willing to concede that Washington and Hollywood may share seduction and power as common currency, that doesn't mean the stakes are the same. □



US actors George Clooney and Philip Seymour Hoffman pose at the photo call for the film 'The Ides of March' at the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011.

(AP Photo/Joe Ryan)

ing the question of whether the ends justify the means. The political arena "raised the stakes," a relaxed and

put it pretty much anywhere. It's all the same sort of issues. It's issues of morality. It's issues of whether or

Blues from the desert, recorded on site



From left: Eyadou ag Leche, Abdallah ag Alhousseyni, Ibrahim ag Alhabib, Elaga ag Hamid and Said ag Ayad, members of the band Tinariwen, at the Highline Ballroom in New York, July 20, 2011. Tinariwen, whose music is a mix of Berber, Arab, Western and black African styles, recorded its new album outdoors in tents and around campfires.

(Chad Batka/The New York Times)

LARRY ROTHER
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In the language of the Tuareg nomads who for centuries have roamed the most remote reaches of the southern Sahara, "tinariwen" means "deserts." But ever since the musical group of that name released its first CD in 2001, its members have recorded not on their home turf but in much the same way that American and European bands do: in the artificial environment of a recording studio, in cities like Paris and Bamako, Mali. With "Tassili," released Tuesday, Tinariwen, whose music is a hard-rocking hybrid of Berber, Arab, Western and black African

styles, has sought to return to its beginnings. Named for a spectacular area of canyons and sandstone arches near Algeria's border with Libya, the CD was rehearsed and recorded out of doors there, in tents and around campfires much like those where the group's founding members, political exiles then living in refugee settlements, first came together to play.

"We wanted to go back to our origins, to the experience of ishumar," which means exile or being adrift, explained Eyadou ag Leche, the band's bass player, speaking in French during an interview in New York in July. "Those were

times when we would sit around a campfire, singing songs and passing around a guitar.

Tinariwen was born in that movement, in that atmosphere, so what you hear on 'Tassili' is the feeling of ishumar."

Tinariwen was founded around 1979 by the singer and guitarist Ibrahim ag Alhabib, who was born in Mali but fled that country as a child after his father was abducted and killed by government forces trying to put down a Tuareg rebellion. Now 51, Alhabib spent time in Algeria, Niger and Libya, where he joined a Tuareg army backed by Moammar Gadhafi; there his ability to write songs

about the plight of the Tuareg, shuttling from one country to another but belonging to none, made him a leading voice of resistance and autonomy. By 1985, "Tinariwen's songs were already circulating across the Sahara on the cassette grapevine, copied over and over again," said Andy Morgan, the group's former manager, who is writing a book about the band. For the next four years, he added, "Ibrahim and several others who had already received infantry training were in a camp near Tripoli, where their job was to play music" sympathetic to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Azawad. □

which aimed to establish an independent Tuareg republic in the Sahara.

Over the last decade, though, Tinariwen has won a following among American and European pop musicians and audiences that crave authenticity and passion in both music and attitude. The guitar is not a traditional instrument for the Tuaregs: ag Alhabib recalls fashioning one as a child after he saw it being played in a movie, but when he and other members of Tinariwen were able to return to Mali in the 1990s, the band began building or acquiring all the instrumental accoutrements of a modern rock band. □

What price life?



MAUREEN DOWD

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So the big, bad storm huffed and puffed and didn't blow all the houses in.

Reversing Katrina, on the sixth anniversary of that shameful episode in American history, the response to Irene was more powerful than the storm.

And that made some solipsistic Gothamites who missed their subways and restaurants grouchy. There is no greater abuse to New Yorkers than inconvenience.

Once the storm became "Apocalypse Not," as The New York Post called it, there were those who accused Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey of overreacting to make up for their infamous underreactions to last year's Christmas blizzard, when Hizzoner was baking in Bermuda and the Guv was playing at Disney World in Florida with his family.

In a Wall Street Journal column, Bret Stephens suggested "a new edition of the Three Little Pigs, this one for the CYA age."

Ordered to evacuate from his Manhattan home near the Hudson River, Stephens took his family to his parents' wood-framed house in Connecticut, where a 50-foot elm crashed in the yard. So he went hard on the Chicken Little mayor. "What's the wisdom of the ages," Stephens asked, "when a mayor wants to erase the stain of mishandling last winter's snowstorms by forcibly relocating people from his zone of responsibility to places that are somebody else's zone of responsibility?"

Should those whose job it is to prepare for the worst be punished because the worst didn't happen?

What determines your judgment of politicians' reaction is what happens to you. Those washed out from North Carolina to New Jersey to Vermont don't think government overreacted. As Mel Brooks once said, "Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you walk into an open sewer and die."

Asked at a Saturday hurricane briefing about the response in relation to the debate about the role of government, Christie made it clear that saving lives was the most important thing. The Republican said he didn't think that Democrats and Republicans were debating this: "Protecting the safety of our citizens is one of the bedrock roles of government."

Not so bedrock for some of the Flintstones types in Washington

who are now hotly debating austerity versus salvation. The impressively hands-on performances of Christie, Bloomberg and Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York were not enough to make Tea Partiers, Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul and Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor root for big government against rampaging nature.

Paul, a libertarian whose scorn of government is so great that he doesn't even want it to coordinate in natural disasters, insisted that FEMA, which he calls "a giant contributor to deficit financing," should be shut down. Though his state of Virginia was the epicenter of an earthquake before being hit by Irene, Cantor has insisted that additional money for cash-strapped FEMA must be offset by spending cuts, echoing his remarks in May that money sent to traumatized tornado victims in Joplin, Mo., would mean cuts somewhere else. The callous comments about disaster relief in recent days by Cantor, Paul and, believe it or not, the disgraced former FEMA Chief Michael

"Heck of a job, Brownie" Brown infuriated Bernie Sanders, the independent Vermont senator touring his inundated state, who told Carl Hulse of The Times that coming together to help on disasters "is what being a nation is about." In a briefing at the White House Monday, FEMA Director Craig Fugate said that the lesson of Katrina is for the federal government to "get things going earlier" and not wait until an overwhelmed state "says we're going to need help."

Too bad that didn't occur to W. in 2005. He met with Gov. Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin on Air Force One and correctly assessed they were not up to the job but then retreated behind clinical states' rights arguments as a great American city drowned.

In his new memoir, Dick Cheney faults Blanco for dithering and not requesting that the president federalize the response to Katrina. It's a variation on Rummy's shrugging that "You go to war with the army you have."

Always the hard-liner, Cheney notes: "President Bush has written that he should have sent in U.S. troops earlier, which may be true, but which to my mind lets state authorities off the hook too easily." Why save lives if you can slap bumbling Democrats around? Proving once more that he is truly delusional, Vice praised President Bush in the wake of Katrina for "reaching out to people who needed to know that their government cared about them."

The awful hypocrisy is this: As we saw when W. and Cheney spent trillions trying to impose democracy on Iraq and Afghanistan, W. and Cheney believe in big government, in a strong, centralized executive power. But with Katrina, they chose not to use it. □



What makes Steve Jobs great



JOE NOCERA

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"I think I have five more great products in me," Steve Jobs said a very long time ago. He was 31 at the time and barreling up Route 101 in Silicon Valley, en route to a meeting in San Francisco. Having been kicked out of Apple, which he'd co-founded a decade before, Jobs was wholly engaged in the act of starting a new company, which he had named – of course! – NeXT.

As it happens, I was in the passenger seat, interviewing him for Esquire magazine. I was never one of the journalists who was close to Jobs. But that long-ago assignment came at a time in his life when he must have wanted to unburden himself.

For nearly a week, he allowed me to sit in on meetings and engaged in long, introspective conversations over dinner. And he took me to his house, where we leafed through a photo album with pictures of the team that created the Macintosh computer, his last big accomplishment before his exile from Apple. Wednesday's sad, but unsurprising, news that Jobs was resigning as Apple's chief executive – presumably because of his deteriorating health – got me thinking about that old encounter. The businessman I met

25 years ago violated every rule of management. He was not a consensus-builder but a dictator who listened mainly to his own intuition. He was a maniacal micromanager. He had an astonishing aesthetic sense, which businesspeople almost always lack. He could be absolutely brutal in meetings: I watched him eviscerate staff members for their "bozo ideas."

The Steve Jobs I watched that week was arrogant, sarcastic, thoughtful, learned, paranoid and "insanely" (to use one of his favorite words) charismatic.

The Steve Jobs the rest of the world has gotten to know in the nearly 15 years since he returned to Apple is no different. He never mellowed, never let up on Apple employees, never stopped relying on his singular instincts in making decisions about how Apple products should look and how they should work. Just a few months ago, Fortune published an article about life inside Apple; it opened with an anecdote in which Jobs cut his staff to ribbons for putting out a product that failed to meet his standards. But his instincts have been so unerringly good – and his charisma so powerful – that Apple employees were willing to follow him wherever he led.

Apple will miss those instincts. Most of the articles written in the past few days about Jobs' resignation have tended to focus on the iPhone and the iPad. But if you take the long view, they're just the icing on the cake.

Have we forgotten already that Jobs virtually invented the personal computer, with the introduction of the Apple II, when he was barely 21? That a few years later he saved Apple from near-disaster by creating the Macintosh – the first machine with a mouse and windows, and all the other features we associate with modern computing? That

the NeXT operating system was critical to the next generation of Macintosh computers after Jobs returned from a 12-year exile in 1997? And, yes, then came the iPod, the iPhone and iPad – all of them so elegant in their look and feel that they became more than devices. They were objects of lust.

There's more, of course. Steve Jobs persuaded the recording industry to use his iTunes to give consumers an easy alternative to stealing music online. The iPhone completely upended two industries: computing and cellphones. The iPad is in the process of doing the same to the written word. And let's not forget Pixar, which Jobs bought at the same time he was starting NeXT, and which has become the greatest maker of animated films in modern times, steeped in Jobs' aesthetic and attention to detail.

In recent days, Jobs has been routinely called a business genius, and who can disagree? I've been a critic at times of some of Apple's practices, starting with its excessive secrecy, but there is no denying that Jobs is on a very short list of greatest American businessmen ever.

In the past few days, he's often been mentioned as a modern-day Henry Ford, who, of course, built the first automobile the middle class could afford. On that ride to San Francisco all those years ago, Jobs himself compared the still-young computer industry to Henry Ford's automobile industry, when anything still seemed possible.

"It must have been the most incredible feeling to know that this was going to change America," he said. "And it did!"

As he steps down as Apple's leader, at the too-young age of 56, Steve Jobs has known that feeling more than anyone else alive. □

Seeking space, Londoners dig down to add on



Ravji Halai stands in the swimming pool he has built under the garden of his home in London, July 4, 2011. Wealthy London homeowners who have run out of ways to expand have begun digging underground to put in pools, gyms and other additions.

(Andrew Testa/The New York Times)

SARAH LYALL

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LONDON – To compensate for the lack of natural light around his new basement swimming pool, one London homeowner installed an outdoor camera that projects real-time images of the changing sky onto the pool ceiling. To assuage the concerns of swimmers who hate cramped spaces, another resident dug down so far beneath the earth that his pool is 16 feet deep and has a high-diving board. Britain is not immune from the housing slump, and London is still reeling from last month's riots. But never mind. In a city that has some of the richest people and most expensive real estate in the world, well-off homeowners who have exhausted the traditional methods of home expansion – build up, or build out – are enthusiastically branching out the only other way possible: down. Far beneath London's surface, and to their neighbors' considerable chagrin, they are using enormous machines to remove thousands of tons of dirt and replace it with new structures extending as many as four floors down. They are building not just swimming pools, but also cinemas, recreation centers, gyms, wine cellars,

bowling alleys, squash courts, climbing walls, servants' quarters, saunas, waterfalls, Jacuzzis, hair salons and multicar garages with special elevators to shuttle vintage car collections up and down.

"A good way of looking at it is to think of the superyacht market," explained John Lees, a chairman of Lees Associates, who regularly works on projects costing tens of millions of dollars. His underground pools, he said, have included one in which a film of moving sharks is projected on the walls while the "Jaws" theme song plays, and another covered in hand-made golden ceramic tiles embedded with tiny lights that twinkle and give swimmers the feeling of being enveloped in the night sky. "You know the kind of kit they have and how big they are, and they keep getting bigger and bigger?" he said, referring to yachts of the rich and famous. "In London, a densely populated city, you need to find a way to go. And so down you go." London does have tony health clubs with pools. But people developing subterranean residential space argue that nothing beats swimming in your basement. "We'll be able to wake up in the morning, swim for half an hour, exer-

cise, and you don't have to get stuck in traffic," said Ravji Halai, 54, a building-supplies tycoon who is building a gym, a bar and a heated swimming pool

truckloads of earth over four months, an exercise that did not amuse the neighbors. But Halai made peace by promising to let them swim in the pool, too. "I don't want to be greedy," he said. "You get money, you spend money."

He is lucky; most new basement owners seem to make mortal enemies of their neighbors. The projects "are for today's Chelsea residents what cholera was in the mid-19th century – a miasma lurking invisibly, waiting to pounce," Terence Bendixson, honorary secretary of the Chelsea Society, a civic group, told The Evening Standard recently. London has strict zoning laws and forbids in many cases changing the footprint of a house or adding to its height.

But the law was written only "with that which takes place above the ground in mind," Tony Hillier, the chairman of the Heath and

earth."

In a city in which rich people endlessly buy new houses and then renovate them, construction rage is not a new phenomenon: Even Londoners who have refurbished their own properties tend to react with righteous indignation to their neighbors' refurbishment efforts. But anger over the classic grievances – noise, extra traffic and maybe some dust – is small potatoes compared with the white-hot fury provoked by excavations.

"The past year has been a nightmare," Matthew Wright, a popular television and radio host, wrote recently in The Daily Mail, describing the basement project next door. So bad was the "excavation, foundation drilling, concreting, underpinning (you want to try to live through underpinning), not to mention shattering, grinding, drilling and so on," he said, that even earplugs "meant for shot-



Ravji Halai, right, stands on the glass roof that covers the swimming pool he has built under the garden of his home in London, July 4, 2011.

(Andrew Testa/The New York Times)

(with jet action) under his house in Hendon, North London. It cost him \$1.2 million to buy the house in 2007, he said, \$55,000 to tear it down, and about \$5 million (and counting) to build the new, souped-down incarnation. Excavating the dirt to construct the basement required the removal of 400

Hampstead Society, a civic group in North London, said in an interview. Using a British colloquialism for "flout," he added: "A number of people who seek to develop underground have been able to drive a coach and horses through the law by saying it doesn't actually prevent you from digging almost to the center of the

gun enthusiasts" could not drown out the noise. Unable to sleep after the workmen arrived at 7:15 every morning, wielding pneumatic drills that caused his bed to vibrate, Wright said, he became too exhausted to continue hosting his late-night BBC radio show and had to quit. □